



Rural Palliative Care Project 2007 – 2010

The Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) has welcomed Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing, Senator Brett Mason's commitment to funding the Rural Palliative Care (RPC) Project. The \$6.7 million announcement will allow 36 divisions of general practice in rural areas to work with health and community services to deliver palliative care in their local areas.

The AGPN will seek expressions of interest from rural divisions of general practice and / or consortia of divisions, to participate in the RPC Project.

The RPC Project will be implemented over the period mid September 2007 to 31 May 2010. The project will have two waves (intake periods) each recruiting 18 divisions. The divisions will deliver a project over a maximum period of two years. AGPN will call for expressions of interest shortly for wave one.

AGPN has two main outcomes that must be met through this expression of interest (EOI) process, they are to:

1. resource a maximum of 36 rural divisions of general practice, or consortia of divisions, to implement and reorient local palliative care services to include the role of general practice based on the findings of the Rural Palliative Care Pilot Program; and
2. provide sustainable models of rural palliative care service delivery that can be adapted to address the local needs of rural communities throughout Australia.

This will be achieved through enhancing common understandings among participants / key stakeholders, strengthening links between palliative care and mainstream service delivery, and taking into account the broader consumer and community interests.

The RPC Project provides a way forward in addressing access and quality palliative care for rural and remote Australians. Therefore, the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (the Department) has made funds available through the AGPN to deliver this outcome. The available resources for the 36 Divisions will be up to a maximum of \$150,000 over a maximum two year implementation period.

AGPN will also call for expressions of interest from capable and experienced divisions of general practice to provide support and guidance, through the employment of a Zone Coordinator, to the rural divisions of general practice participating in the Rural Palliative Care (RPC) Project.

AGPN has two main outcomes that must be met through this expression of interest (EOI) process. They are to:

1. contract three zone coordinators to provide support and guidance to the rural divisions of general practice implementing the national RPC Project
2. provide sustainable models of rural palliative care service delivery that can be adapted to address the local needs of rural communities throughout Australia.

The available resources for the 3 Division based Zone Coordinators will be up to a maximum of \$70,000 per year over implementation period.

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