

- For immediate release – 21 August 2009

Resthaven to provide Community Services in the Riverland

Established in 1935, Resthaven Incorporated is respected for the delivery of high quality, responsive assistance and support for older people and their carers. Resthaven's services extend across metropolitan Adelaide, the Murraylands, Limestone Coast and - soon - in the Riverland.

Recently, the Australian Government announced additional funding of community aged care services for people who live at home.

'We are really excited about this funding, which means that Resthaven is able to expand our services to the Riverland', explains Sue McKechnie, Resthaven's Executive Manager, Community Services.

'Resthaven is delighted to have been awarded ten Extended Aged Care at Home packages, five of which have a dementia specific focus, and ten Community Aged Care Packages for people living at home in the Riverland. The care packages cover a broad spectrum of care needs, from a little support to more intense help to manage the challenging issues associated with increasing frailty and memory loss.'

'For example, our coordinated support may include assistance with household help, such as shopping, cleaning and laundry, personal care, such as showering, grooming and medication management, and lifestyle options, linking to social and educational opportunities. With the Extended Aged Care at Home packages, more intensive nursing care and support may be offered for clients as their care needs increase.'

To be eligible, an assessment and approval from the Government Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) is required. Individuals, family, friends, general practitioners and allied health professionals can make a referral to the ACAT.

'In addition, we plan to offer a range of other support services from a new office location in the old TAFE building, at 60 East Terrace, Loxton. Our community care services are tailored to each person's specific needs.'

The new office is being set up over the next few weeks by Cecelia Oxborrow, Community Services Manager, who will also be recruiting staff to join the Resthaven team.

'We will coordinate services from Loxton to offer support for older people who need assistance to continue living in their familiar home environment throughout the Riverland. Having some assistance at home can often make it possible for people who might otherwise have to move, perhaps requiring them to separate from their spouse, to stay together.'

'This is a fantastic outcome for older people who prefer to remain at home, offering individualised, flexible assistance with day to day living tasks.'

For more information about local services and job opportunities contact: **Cecelia Oxborrow**, on **0419 837 480**.

For more information about Resthaven Community Services, visit www.resthaven.asn.au or call **1300 13 66 33**.

Media information: Julie Johninke – 8373 9141 or 0401 824 760