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Resthaven is coming to Mt Gambier

'Resthaven is committed to offering care and support services for older South Australians,' Resthaven Chief Executive Officer, Richard Hearn, said today. 'So we are very grateful that we are in a position to build a new Residential Aged Care Facility in Mt Gambier over the next year to alleviate long waiting times for aged care.'

'Last year, the Minister for Ageing, Justine Elliot, released the initial stage allocation of aged care places in the Australian Government's Zero Real Interest Loan and Associated Places Round. This was a special allocation of places in areas of identified high need.

'Resthaven is delighted that work will commence shortly on our proposed 71 room, residential aged care facility, adjacent to the magnificent St Andrews Uniting Church in Mt Gambier. We have been working in close liaison with Rev Di Grimm, the congregation and local community.'

'As the site is located in the St Andrew's Local Heritage Residential Policy Area, we have been very careful in our planning, as the existing St Andrew's Church and Manse on the adjacent land parcel are both listed on the State Heritage list.'

'Our planned building is set back and at a lower level to the Manse and Church in order to maintain their prominence. A high quality landscaped and connected space is proposed between this development and the Church and the form, proportion and materials used for the new building reflect the local heritage context.'

'Several items, including significant stones, a gable wall and leadlight windows from the old hall will be salvaged and elements reused in the new development. The stonework will be reinterpreted as a two storey high feature element at the front of the new building.'

'The windows will be reused as a focal point in the new interior multipurpose chapel space.'

'We anticipate that the project will be completed late in 2010, as Resthaven celebrates 75 years of service to older South Australians.

'This work will significantly boost the local economy, provide much needed support and care for older people in the area, as well as create approximately 100 long term local jobs.' Richard said.

'Resthaven has been providing community services throughout the Limestone Coast for several years and the residential facility will complement these services.'

'We support people who need assistance with day to day tasks such as washing, cooking, cleaning, and medication management, as well as coordinated support for carers of any age who care for frail or disabled people aged 60 or over. As each person's individual needs are different, services are structured according to their abilities and interests.'

Resthaven currently operates residential aged care facilities at nine locations, offering accommodation to more than 1,000 older people. Resthaven employs approximately 1,500 staff, who are supported by 400 volunteers.

A range of in home community care and support options are offered throughout metropolitan Adelaide, the Adelaide Hills, Murraylands, Riverland and across the Limestone Coast, with more than 6,000 clients benefiting from these services.

For more information visit the website www.resthaven.asn.au

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