
Media Release

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It's our birthday!

This year, Resthaven celebrates 75 years of service to older South Australians

'Over the years, many things have changed. One thing that hasn't, is our commitment to supporting older people and their carers,' Resthaven Chief Executive Officer Richard Hearn affirmed.

'It is easy to forget that in the early years of South Australia's settlement, there was no government welfare support. Services for the elderly were very limited. Many relied on Christian charity to survive.

'That is why it is remarkable that during the Great Depression, the Methodist Church embarked on a new Home Mission, and called it 'Resthaven'. The name was chosen as it evoked feelings of 'safety, serenity and rest in life's eventide'.

'When we look at Resthaven in 2010, it is amazing to see what has grown out of that first initiative. In the words of the Rev. Norman Lade, it was to provide, 'a home for aged women, where in a tender, gracious and sympathetic environment, lonely women might forget their loneliness, where among their own generation and experience they might find light and warmth and good fellowship.'

'Resthaven was officially opened on May 11, 1935, by Lady Kidman, wife of the prominent pastoralist, Sir Sidney Kidman.

'Today, Resthaven has nine locations offering residential care to 1,000 older people, as well as providing in-home care and support for around 7,000 people through our Community Services.

'Yet despite all the immense changes and developments experienced throughout Resthaven's 75 year history, the essence of our mission has not changed. Resthaven continues to provide outstanding care and support to older South Australians and their carers. In 2010, we recognise and embrace the rich diversity of the Australian community, value inclusion, unity and tolerance and respect the dignity of each individual, paying due regard to their country of birth, language, culture and beliefs. Resthaven's commitment to building links with communities is evident through our multicultural programs.

'We are committed to working and developing strong relationships with Multicultural Aged Care and other stakeholders, so that we can offer services in a culturally appropriate and respectful manner. With ABS 2006 census statistics indicating that one in six people over the age of 65 do not speak English as their main language at home, and with the older CALD population increasing faster than those born in English speaking countries and in South Australia, this is an imperative.

'Resthaven will celebrate our milestone 75th birthday with a number of events and activities throughout the year.'

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