

Media Release

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Resthaven celebrates 75 years of service to older South Australians

'This year is Resthaven's 75th anniversary. 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 South Australians through our Community Services,' Resthaven Chief Executive Officer Richard Hearn affirmed.

'Over the years, many things have changed. One thing that hasn't, is our commitment to supporting older people and their carers. 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. 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. '

Resthaven has been providing Community Services throughout the Limestone Coast for several years, and was well represented at the recent South East Field Days in Lucindale.

Resthaven Limestone Coast Community Services combined the Field Days with a celebration of Resthaven's 75th anniversary, with balloons, give aways and a range of information available.

Resthaven Limestone Coast Community Services Manager, Elizabeth Southall, said 'We had a very successful experience at the South East Field Days. We spoke to multitudes of people from across the South-East, about our in-home care and support services. We also gave away lots of balloons to the children.

'The Resthaven display gave people the opportunity to meet our local staff and ask questions about the options we have available to support older people.

'Another point of interest was the plans for our 71-room Residential Aged Care Facility under construction in Mount Gambier. To be completed early next year, this will add to the portfolio of services Resthaven provides in the Limestone Coast.

'This development 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. We will start taking enquiries from October this year,' CEO Richard Hearn says.

Resthaven employs approximately 1,500 staff, who are supported by 400 volunteers.

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