

MEDIA RELEASE

BELLBERRY LIMITED BACKS RDNS RESEARCH

The Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS) has received a \$40,000 grant from local company Bellberry Limited, to undertake ground-breaking research into the effectiveness of some medications administered by carers to people receiving palliative care at home.

“Demand for home based palliative care – caring for people with incurable conditions - has risen sharply over recent years. The RDNS provides home based palliative care to more than 600 people each month” said Dr Kralik, Director of the RDNS Research Unit. The RDNS service provides people with the choice to stay home when they are at end of life.

Bellberry Limited, a private not-for-profit company were particularly impressed with the proposal from the RDNS Research Unit, a unique team of dedicated nursing researchers.

“Human research is vitally important. Not only can it provide some sufferers a life line where there is no other but it can also ensure an organisation is practicing at the leading edge of healthcare at all times,” Professor Malcolm Mackinnon, Director of Bellberry said.

Bellberry Ltd provides safe and rapid assessment of human research trial proposals through its independent Human Research Ethics Committee to assist researchers across Australia. Bellberry Ltd were pleased to be able to support nursing research for the first time through its donation to this innovative project.

The aim of the research is to examine current practices regarding the use of injectable medications administered by carers in the home. It will test the stability, sterility and potency of single use medications and will also include interviews with carers in metropolitan and rural South Australia.

At present, unused medications are discarded within 72 hours, a practice which is not based on evidence because the evidence has not to date been available. The findings of this research could impact on palliative care nursing in the community, by having a greater understanding of how best to manage medications in the home..

RDNS hopes the information gained from this research will not only impact on the local South Australian community but may assist in the provision of best practice care to home based palliative care patients across Australia.

FURTHER MEDIA INFORMATION CONTACT:

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