



**HOPE
HEALTHCARE**

media release

For immediate use

Club's donation promises better mental health for older adults

A \$10,000 donation by Leo McCarthy Memorial Smithfield RSL Club under the Community Development and Support Expenditure scheme will go towards establishing a pilot program at Braeside Hospital for the local community in the Fairfield and Liverpool areas.

The program involves day socialisation and support for older adults with mental health problems who are living in the community.

Transport will be provided to the venue and activities will be coordinated by a Diversional Therapist in consultation with the participants, including on-site as well as tours to places of interest in the area. With this funding the pilot program would typically run from morning to mid afternoon, one day a fortnight.

The program would effectively be an extension of Braeside's Aged Care Psychiatry service with initial referrals from that service's Community team.

The proponent of the program, Clinical Nurse Consultant Regina McDonald said that the benefits were many. "It represents a significant illness prevention and health promotion activity. It offers ready access to early intervention should it be necessary and it should be seen as part of a continuum of care focussing on rehabilitation and recovery for those that may have experienced mental health problems, or are at risk of developing such problems, in late life."

In acknowledging the donation from the club, Bill McLaren, Chief Executive Office of Hope Healthcare said that in their ongoing support for health care initiatives at Braeside Hospital, the Smithfield RSL have demonstrated their own concern to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community. "This project promises to address a real need for the older members of the community by offering them social networking opportunities and improving their quality of life."

Sydney 25 January 2006

*For more information ☎ Robert Britton on mobile 0418 260 476, 9903 8133 or e-mail
rbritton@nsccha.health.nsw.gov.au*

D:\My Documents\Winword\Word-Hope\medr\se\medr1104.doc

■ Aged Care Psychiatry

■ Community & Aged Services

■ Palliative Care

■ Rehabilitation

**Specialised Public
Health & Community Services**

Hope Healthcare Limited ABN 72 074 354 028 www.hopehealthcare.com.au
A ministry of the Anglican Deaconess Institution Sydney