



**HOPE
HEALTHCARE**

media release

For immediate use

Respite and carer support program recognised

Hope Healthcare's Community and Aged Services were delighted to be recipients of the 2005 Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service's Special CEO's Quality Award for Carer Support for their Flexible Carer Respite Solutions program.

Funded by the Commonwealth's National Respite for Carers initiative, Flexible Carer Respite Solutions provides respite and support to carers of people with dementia and associated challenging behaviours. In the past carers of people with challenging behaviours such as high anxiety, aggression or wandering were not easily able to gain access to mainstream dementia specific services such as day centres, and thus missed out on much needed respite.

Our Flexible Carer Respite Solutions uses a dementia educator, music therapist and flexible respite options in the program. Experienced staff support education and behaviour management strategies, teamed with music therapy. This three-pronged approach results in supported access to much needed respite services as well as carer education.

"This award reflects the dedication and skill of the staff of the program, who work so hard every day" said Nicola Griffiths, the Manager of Community and Aged Care Services. "We are absolutely delighted".

Sydney 15 December 2005

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■ Aged Care Psychiatry

■ Community & Aged Services

■ Palliative Care

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**Specialised Public
Health & Community Services**

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