

MEDIA RELEASE

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



New project to examine benefits of respite care

A new project aims to study the benefits of respite services for older adults.

The University of Tasmania Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre is working in partnership with Glenview Community Services to conduct the Bisdee Project.

The project has been inspired by the programs and services currently being run at Bisdee House – a stand-alone wing at Glenview in Glenorchy. The current Bisdee House program has been operating for three years offering respite care for carers of older people.

Project Chief Investigator and Honorary Research Associate of the Wicking Centre Dr Christine Stirling said there has been a lot of research looking at the benefits of respite for carers, but this innovative research will study what carers' believe are the benefits to their loved ones when attending respite services.

The Project will involve surveying the carers.

Dr Sharon Andrews, Research Fellow of the Wicking Centre and project co-investigator, said: "we hope that results from this project can help older people to stay in their own homes for longer."

The launch comes at the start of Carers Week (17-23 October). Current clients of the Glenview Community Services Day Centre and their carers today enjoyed a morning tea as Independent Member for Denison Andrew Wilkie launched the Bisdee Project.

Mr Wilkie, a strong supporter of Glenview said, most people want to live in their own homes for as long as is practicable.

"We expect the results of this project will be of great benefit over time."

The CEO of Glenview, Lucy O'Flaherty, is delighted to partner with the Wicking Centre on this project.

"If we can find ways to improve the lives of older people and their carers, and help to de-stigmatise the role of respite care, then it will be a very worthwhile project," she said.

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