

## HIPPOCRATES



## A New Partnership with Hippocrates Association

In March 2007, Fronditha and the Hippocrates Australian Greek Aged Persons Association of Newcastle established a partnership to develop and provide residential aged care in Mayfield, Newcastle. The service will target the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities of Newcastle and surrounding municipalities, with priority given to Greek elderly.

The Greek community arrived in Newcastle during the post war migration wave and reached a population size of approximately 7,500 by the mid 1960's. Like the remainder of Australia, the numbers of elderly within the Greek community of Newcastle have begun to rise. The Hippocrates Association was established in 1992 for the purpose of pursuing the development of aged care for their community. It is a charitable organisation with over 400 members.

In 2006, the Association received 50 low care bed licenses and it became necessary to consider building options. Given the complexities in aged residential care development it became evident that a partnership with an experienced aged care provider would ensure the fruition of their vision. The Hippocrates Association approached Fronditha Care for two fundamental reasons; firstly Fronditha is a not-for-profit organisation with the same mission,

“To enhance the well-being of elderly people by promoting excellence in care and support and ensuring that their social and individual needs are met in a way which is consistent with their linguistic needs and cultural identity”

Secondly, Fronditha is well established and highly regarded by the Greek community in Melbourne and the aged care industry at large. The synergies between the two organisations were evident and the partnership was announced in March 2007.

The two organisations are working towards a short and long term plan; initially a 60 bed facility offering low care, ageing in place and high care will be built. The second stage will include the development of additional 30 beds and a community centre and stage three will include the development of assisted living units.

Stage 1 of the development is currently in the planning process, it is envisaged that building will begin early 2008 and the facility will be commissioned early 2009.

Community partnerships are not new to Fronditha and Fronditha is interested in providing services to Australian Greek elderly no matter where they live. Community partnerships create numerous opportunities in service provision and Fronditha and the Hippocrates Australian Greek Aged Persons Association of Newcastle look forward to a long prosperous working relationship.