



Rotary Club of Adelaide



GOVERNMENT FUNDING CUT BY \$58,000 to only \$17,000 pa.

You may be aware that the Government has given significant funds to some disability sectors in the recent State budget. We applaud the Government's support of selected disability organisations and we wouldn't want that to be taken away. However, you may not be aware that, without prior consultation, ten agencies have had their funding cut and are now left to wonder how we will find alternative funding – and quickly – to continue our service to the community. The State Budget for 2007/2008 has seen the Arthritis Foundation's annual government funding slashed by \$58,000 to only \$17,000. This money is used by Arthritis SA to provide critical community support and information via our Education Team.

The services which will be affected are:

- Telephone advisory service including a free 1800 number for country callers – 5000 calls per annum
- Moving Towards Wellness Self Management program for people with arthritis and other chronic conditions, and their families and carers.
- Public seminars and community talks – 2000 people per year
- Dissemination of information to 20 state wide Branches and Support Groups
- Printed information sheets
- Our informative website which receives over 3000 visits per month
- Education seminars to health professionals, service clubs, schools and other community groups
- Visits to children with arthritis in country areas to provide support and information
- Individual advocacy on behalf of clients and their families, for example to ensure a child receives adequate services from their school

The benefits from these programs have resulted in people being able to experience improved health and quality of life. Many of the people using our services have found that they have reduced hospitalisation, improved mobility, less pain, and less depression. Hence demands on the already over burdened Health System have been reduced and in many cases severe disability has been prevented or reduced. We have had numerous cases of people being able to return to the paid or voluntary workforce, participate in active family and community life, even walk again after being confined to a wheelchair.

This significant cut in our funds will hurt our services!

Arthritis affects over 250,000 South Australians.

If you have kindly donated to the Arthritis Foundation in the past few months we thank you, but if you haven't, we would appreciate your support more than ever

With your help, the Arthritis Foundation will continue to offer our services to the best of our ability.

Yours Sincerely

Gillian Leach
Chief Executive Officer