

## **Guidelines for Open Place Support Funding**

### ***What is support funding?***

Support funding is available to improve Forgotten Australians' access to services. It is funding that is used by Open Place to assist Forgotten Australians receive a service that may not otherwise be provided. Support funding is integrated into the current Open Place programs; Records, Find and Connect, Counselling, Co-ordinated support and Social & Support groups.

Confirmation Of Time In Care (COTIC) eligibility is required for access to all Open Place programs, with the exception of attendance at Social and Support groups.

The support fund is a limited financial resource. Underpinning these guidelines is the belief that the distribution of limited resources must provide a balance of equitable services (available to all) and targeted services (provided to those most in need).

### ***Support funding is provided to the areas below for the following purposes:***

#### ***Records, Find and Connect***

- To assist in the cost of accessing institutional and ward records of Forgotten Australians records and to assist, as appropriate, family reunions

#### ***Counselling***

- To support Forgotten Australians and their immediate family members to improve their health, stability and emotional and psychological well being

#### ***Co-ordinated support***

- To assist Forgotten Australians to health services.

#### ***Social & Support groups***

- To provide Forgotten Australians with support networks in relation to their experience as Forgotten Australians

All Forgotten Australians have a right to access their records and undertake family searches and all Forgotten Australians have a right to be supported through this often difficult exercise.

Currently under these arrangements, Forgotten Australians, on request, will be able to access the support fund managed by the Record, Find and Connect team for the purposes of records and family searching, and the counselling team for the purposes of accessing counselling external to Open Place. Please note that the resources provided available for these services are not transferrable to other activities.

The Co-ordinated Support team will be required to prioritise access to the support fund on the basis of need. Decision making in relation to the availability of the support fund for co-ordinated support needs will consider whether the needs of the Forgotten Australian can be met from a mainstream service and/or another funding source and the urgency of the presenting need.

Social and Support Groups will receive funding based on the active numbers of members.

Further details and description of the above programs are available on the Open Place web site.