

P.S.A

BAROSSA/GAWLER GROUP

INFORMATION FROM THE MEETING HELD AT PFIEFFER HOUSE ON TUESDAY March 16th 2004 AT 7.00PM

The attendance of 17 people to the meeting was very pleasing. A special welcome was given to David Hopper, our guest speaker on Wills, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Guardianship.

Apologies from Rex and Susan Petrie and Joy, Pat and Edna.

The draft of the Prostate Cancer Information pamphlet; a common information sheet from SA support groups was passed around.

Alan read out the letter he sent on our behalf to Lea Stephens the SA Minister for Health seeking extra funding for Cancer research, and in particular, Prostate Cancer research. This was in response to a \$300,000 donation by Hotels Association to the Hanson Centre. Thanks to Tony for helping draft the letter. Her reply indicated the usual "we don't have the money at this stage to match the grant".

Alan introduced David to speak to the meeting.

There are three stages in ones life that wills and enduring powers of attorney and guardianship recognize. They are:- you are either

1. Capable of attending to your business and living needs, and sound of mind.
2. Legally incapable of the above (this is always a grey area)
3. Dead.

These documents have no power in the circumstances of point number one. However in the situation of point number two the legal processes of the following two documents can be invoked.

- **Enduring Power of Attorney** enables you to appoint a person (usually a family member) to make important decisions about your *belongings* (financial matters, property, legal matters).
- Whereas **Enduring Power of Guardianship** enables you to appoint a person to look after your *personal welfare* (medical treatment, living conditions etc.)

Your **Will** is only invoked and becomes a document that tells others of your wishes after you have died.

David encouraged all people to certainly prepare a will and to consider most seriously about preparing the enduring powers of attorney and guardianship. This will ensure wishes are followed in the event of incapacity or death. It is also very helpful to your loved ones who have clear guidelines of your wishes at a time when they may have difficulty in making such decisions.

He encouraged us to consider executors carefully, and to ensure the will and the powers of attorney and guardianship cover all aspects we want. To this end he encouraged us to ensure we received competent professional advice. He handed out an information sheet covering his presentation

David answered questions; and the number of questions and the variety of information sought indicated the appreciation of our group to have the opportunity to discuss these issues.

Alan thanked David and presented him with a bottle of Barossa produce.

Next meeting will be at the Barossa Council May 18th at 7:00pm. Come along and bring a friend as Dr Deane Jaensch and Merlin the Magician will entertain us.