



Bethesda Hospital

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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FUNDS FOR BETHESDA AND ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS BOOSTS CAPACITY

With the ultimate aim of responding to the need to train more specialist doctors in the care of the dying, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and Bethesda Hospital have recently been advised of their success in the achievement of a 3-year grant to fund a Specialist Training Program position.

The funds will assist in providing doctors with an expanded experience in an inpatient palliative care management, outside of the tertiary hospital setting. This experience is an essential component in the development of high level skills and knowledge to enable the doctor to progress toward a Physician Medical Fellowship.

Bethesda Hospital is a key provider of palliative care in Perth and continues to be highly regarded. The hospital has made a significant commitment to improve its ability to not only run an excellent service for patients in need of palliative care, but also to contribute to the need to train more health professionals in this area. Bethesda sees Palliative Care as part of its Mission.

Consultant Physician Dr Ashwini Davray, of the Palliative Care Unit at Bethesda Hospital, has been at the 'coal face' of the increasing demand for specialist palliative care and is the first to recognise, and support, Bethesda Hospital's commitment to providing more training opportunities for doctors. The project will contribute to increasing the capacity to care for the dramatic increase in patients in Western Australia living longer with cancer and other illnesses, who require specialist care. Bethesda's Chief Executive Officer, Yasmin Naglazas, says "Future health workforce issues are high on the national and state agendas, and undertakings and commitments such as this will make significant inroads in addressing the future needs in the WA community".

Bethesda Hospital has also recently been awarded pilot project funding to conduct an ambulatory palliative care service into residential aged care, prisons and mental health facilities. The hospital has established a relationship with New York fashion icon Donna Karan to collaborate on more integrated approaches to palliative care. Donna Karan, who visited Bethesda recently, has established her own Urban Zen Foundation to fund such projects following the death of her husband from cancer.



Above: Bethesda Hospital's Palliative Care Physician, Dr Ashwini Davray

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