



EXPANSION OF MOBILE PALLIATIVE CARE AT BETHESDA HEALTH CARE

Leading on from their provision of the highly successful pilot project entitled Palliative Ambulatory Service North (PASN) services for the past five years, Bethesda Health Care in conjunction with the Department of Health, and the WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network has recently expanded its reach with the launch of the Metropolitan Palliative Care Consultancy Service (MPaCCS).

Continuing as a pilot, this new service integrates the north and south metropolitan specialist palliative care area health teams to provide one coordinated approach to palliative care services across the Perth metropolitan area. The primary aim of the service is to support, and build capacity in the residential care sector, ensuring those in need of palliative care for cancers and life-limiting illnesses receive the best and most appropriate care, avoiding the need to transfer to hospital.

The mobile multidisciplinary specialist palliative care team is a nurse-led model and is based in South Perth, consisting of ten staff including nurses, social workers, palliative care physicians and administration support. A palliative care physician based at Bethesda Health Care's in-patient Palliative Care Unit provides additional telephone support to the team.

With the generosity of the Department of Health and the Government of Western Australia, funds have been provided to establish the new South Perth office, chosen because of its proximity to the north and south freeway entrances, a vital necessity for the mobile team.

The MPaCCS service provision includes:

- 'on site' patient reviews and consultations for complex palliative care patients, pain and other symptoms which the medical officer has assessed as being outside their area of expertise or which need effective specialist management
- education to staff and help build palliative care capacity
- seamless specialist care by following-up clients known to palliative care services or being discharged to residential care from hospital
- psychosocial support for the patient/resident/client and/or their family
- assistance in advance care planning
- guidance regarding terminal/end of life care.
- collaboration with the patient's general practitioner and medical and nursing team



Media Release

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Bethesda
health care

Bethesda Health Care CEO Ms Yasmin Naglazas said that 'we are thrilled to be expanding our current provision of mobile palliative care services, and to complementing, not duplicating the invaluable care of other service providers such as the Silver Chain Hospice'.

'Bethesda Health Care has an outstanding reputation in the provision of palliative care, through our 22 bed in-patient Palliative Care Unit. MPaCCS will increase the hospital's scope to provide more care, particularly to those who do not require in-patient accommodation but need end of life care for cancer and life-limiting illnesses, and to benefit from our staff's expertise and experience.'

Referrals to MPaCCS via :

- **Phone:** (08) 9340 6390
- **Fax:** (08) 9340 6348
- **Email:** MPaCCS@bethesda.org.au

Bethesda Health Care is an independent 88-bed award-winning hospital in Claremont who has been providing care and service to the Western Australian community for more than 70 years.

www.bethesda.org.au

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