



### 10 YEARS OF PALLIATIVE CARE AT BETHESDA HEALTH CARE

This week is National Palliative Care Week, and Bethesda Health Care will be celebrating ten years of providing palliative care to the WA community.

Following the closure the Cottage Hospice in Shenton Park in 2006, Bethesda Health Care ventured into the provision of palliative care by opening a small 10 bed in-patient Palliative Care Unit (PCU).

The PCU has now grown in size to 23 beds, and Bethesda Health Care in conjunction with the Health Department of Western Australia, and the WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network, now also coordinates the Metropolitan Palliative Care Consultancy Service (MPaCCS).

MPaCCS' primary aim is to 'capacity build' in the residential care sector, teaching and supporting staff to take care of residents in aged care, disability homes, mental health facilities and prisons.

The care team from the PCU and MPaCCS consist of Clinical Nurse Consultants, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Palliative Care Consultants, Social Workers, Occupational Therapists, a Chaplain and administration support.

Clinical Nurse Manager of Bethesda's Palliative Care Program Glenys Thomas said that 'in addition to the traditional care team, there is a growing need for us to respond to patients' unique circumstances and individual needs, and work towards a model of care which addresses every dimension of the person, including the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual'.

'In the last 10 years we have had the privilege of caring for over 4,000 patients and families'.

In addition to the provision of palliative care, each year the PCU host numerous clinical placements for medical, nursing and allied health students.

Bethesda Health Care CEO Ms Yasmin Naglazas said that 'National Palliative Care Week this year focuses on "Living Well with Chronic Illness" which provides the perfect opportunity for friends and family to encourage people with life-limiting conditions to make their end-of-life wishes known'.

'Four out of five deaths in Australia are caused by chronic illness, but there is a misconception that only cancer patients can access palliative care. Many don't realise that palliative care can help people with chronic illnesses to live well. Early access to palliative care can help them have a better quality of life', Yasmin said.



# Media Release

23 May 2016



**Bethesda**  
health care

'Palliative care offers many things, including pain and symptom management, to give people as much time as possible as they live with their life limiting illness. Palliative care isn't just for the individual but also supports people like carers, friends and family'.

'Bethesda Health Care is now recognised as a leader in the provision of palliative care in the Western Australian community, and we are all proud of our service provision since our beginnings ten years ago'.

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](http://www.bethesda.org.au)

ends.....

**Media Contact :**

Naomi Quinlivan

0408 598 977

[nquinlivan@bethesda.org.au](mailto:nquinlivan@bethesda.org.au)

