

PALLIATIVE CARE EXPERTISE CELEBRATED AT BETHESDA HEALTH CARE

This week is National Palliative Care Week, and Bethesda Health Care will be celebrating 13 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. The Claremont based health care provider has also provided a mobile consultancy advisory service since 2010 – the Metropolitan Palliative Care Consultancy Service (MPaCCS), which is really making a difference in the residential care sector.

MPaCCS is a capacity building support service assisting staff in residential aged care facilities, mental health facilities, disability services and correctional services, ensuring those living with cancer and other life limiting conditions have equitable access to timely quality end of life care. The service supports the workforce with advance care planning and avoidance of unnecessary hospital admissions, through good planning, education, communication and coordination of end of life care.

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 13 years we have had the privilege of caring for over 8,000 patients and families'.

Bethesda Health Care Executive Board Chairman Dr Neale Fong said that 'National Palliative Care Week this year focuses on "What Matters Most" which provides the perfect opportunity for friends and family to encourage people with life-limiting conditions to make their end-of-life wishes known'.

'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 thirteen years ago'.



Media Release

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Bethesda
health care

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.

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