

HEALTH MINISTER VISITS MOBILE PALLIATIVE CARE TEAM DURING NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK

Today Hon Roger Cook MLA Deputy Premier: Minister for Health; Mental Health visited Leighton Aged Care Home in West Perth to observe a palliative care link team meeting between aged care provider Hall and Prior Health & Aged Care Group, and Bethesda Health Care's Mobile Palliative Care Consultancy Service (MPaCCS).

He was also on hand to celebrate with the team members the 3000th education episode provided by MPaCCS in the community, and National Palliative Care Week (19 – 25 May 2019).

MPaCCs is a mobile specialist palliative care service, funded by WA Health and administered by Bethesda Health Care. Bethesda has provided palliative care to the WA community for the past 13 years through their in-patient Palliative Care Unit and MPaCCS since 2010.

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 MPaCCS team takes a holistic, patient-centred approach to facility support and operates as true multidisciplinary team. In addition to educating and mentoring facility staff about specific nursing, medical and psychosocial interventions, MPaCCS believes three important and overlapping factors contribute to a resident in a care facility 'dying well':

- Physical environment and resources
- Knowing the patient
- Philosophy, culture and organisation of care

The Leighton Aged Care Home has benefited from the service provided by MPaCCS. Jennifer Grieve, General Manager Health and Care Services Hall and Prior said 'that our internal palliative care support services work hand-in-hand with MPaCCS to help support our staff through the palliative care process. They work with us to help provide the best possible care – which includes attending meetings at aged care homes, facilitating extra education and support for families and staff facing challenges in palliative care and using evidence based recommendations to provide best practice', Jennifer said.



‘Along with providing specific advice relevant to the care needs of individuals, the MPaCCS team also work with Hall and Prior staff to highlight broader-based palliative care topics. Each quarter Hall and Prior clinical staff and MPaCCS meet for a palliative care link team meeting’.

Ed Gaudoin, Clinical Nurse Manager of MPaCCS said that “in past eight years there has been a positive change to the palliative care experience and patient journey in residential care. Staff in these facilities have become more empowered and confident to provide a more holistic approach to the residents as well as communicating well with allied health and the treating GP.

We all appreciated the Health Minister observing our link team meeting today, as it gave him a perfect insight into our collaboration and what the two organisations are achieving in palliative 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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About Palliative Care:

Palliative care is an approach that improves quality of life for patients and their families facing the problems associated with life-limiting illnesses, including cancer and diseases such as chronic respiratory disorders, cardiac conditions and neurological disorders such as Motor Neurone Disease (MND). Care involves a plan that helps prevent and relieve suffering by early detection and intervention for pain, anxiety and restlessness. Other symptoms such as insomnia, constipation and nausea are also addressed as part of the treatment plan.

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