



MOBILE PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Metropolitan Palliative Care Consultancy Service (MPaCCS) assists in the provision of palliative care in the community and is coordinated by Bethesda Health Care, in conjunction with the Health Department of Western Australia, and the WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network.

The primary aim of the service is to support, and build capacity in the residential care sector including aged care facilities, mental health facilities, disability and Correctional services, ensuring those in need of palliative care with life-limiting illnesses receive the best and most appropriate care, avoiding the need to transfer to hospital.

In the Mandurah area, this support and education is really making a difference to both the staff and the residents requiring assistance, directly benefitting from Bethesda Health Care's experience and expertise in palliative care provision.

Clinical Nurse Sarah Day, who has worked as an MPaCCs nurse servicing the South of the River for the past five years has really seen a positive change to the palliative care experience and patient journey. She feels that staff 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.

One particular facility Sarah has worked with is Wearne House, an Amana Living aged care facility in Mandurah. "The staff have been fantastic to work with, and their care team has remained the same for past five years. It has been an honor to grow the service that we offer, and through these positive collaborations every resident should be able to access palliative care outside of a hospital setting".

Services provided by MPaCCs :

- 'on site' patient reviews and consultations for complex palliative care patients, pain and other symptoms which the GP has assessed as being outside their area of expertise.
- 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 'Bethesda Health Care has an outstanding reputation in the provision of palliative care for the past 12 years, through our 23 bed in-patient Palliative Care Unit. MPaCCS increases 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.'

Palliative care is described as 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.

National Palliative Care Week is an annual awareness-raising week organised by Palliative Care Australia (PCA) from 20 – 26 May 2018. The theme for this year's National Palliative Care Week is 'What matters most?'

The theme addresses the need for Australians to plan ahead for their end-of-life care and discuss it with their loved ones and health professionals. PCA will highlight how palliative care can help people with a life-limiting illness to have a high quality of life, right to the end of life.

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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