



### **BUILDING PALLIATIVE CARE CAPACITY IN THE COMMUNITY**

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

Their in-patient Palliative Care Unit (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 of MPaCCS is based in South Perth, and includes Clinical Nurse Consultants, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Palliative Care Consultants, Social Workers, Occupational Therapists, a Chaplain and administration support.

One such facility that is really benefitting from MPaCCS is Villa Dalmacia, a 70-bed aged care and residential care facility based in Spearwood since they began working together two years ago.

Villa Dalmacia Operations Manager Ray Obrero said that 'with MPaCCS guidance and ongoing support, we are now able to manage our palliative care patients in a structured way allowing the patient and their families to feel at ease'.

'We made simple changes to our referral process to MPaCCS, encouraged ongoing communication between all care staff and allied health, and held regular debrief sessions. We also commenced memorial services involving family members and carers. This is in addition to ongoing professional development for our staff on palliative care'.

Sarah Day, Clinical Nurse from MPaCCS said that 'Villa Dalmacia staff now feel empowered to manage their mainstream palliative care patients, and rely on our services to assist with complex cases, education and support'.

Clinical Nurse Manager of Bethesda's Palliative Care Program Glenys Thomas said 'palliative care offers many things, including pain and symptom management, to give people as much quality 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'.



# Media Release

24 May 2016



**Bethesda**  
health care

'We are so proud to work out in the community and collaborate with providers such as Villa Dalmacia, using our expertise and experience to assist others to manage their patients'.

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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**Media Contact:**

Naomi Quinlivan

0408 598 977

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

