



Media Release

16 November 2012

Bethesda Hospital to Provide More Private Palliative Beds

Bethesda Hospital in Claremont has an outstanding reputation in the provision of palliative care services to the Western Australian community, through their in-patient Palliative Care Unit (PCU), and their Palliative Ambulatory Service North (PASN)- a mobile consultancy service based at the Hospital and funded by the WA Health Department.

The Hospital has recently made a decision to open more private beds in its PCU, due to an increase in the number of requests for this type of service in the community.

With an already established program of 15 beds funded through a contract with the North Area Health Service, the increase to 6 private beds allows for direct admission for those patients with private health insurance requiring palliative care.

The care provided in the PCU is tailored to meet individual needs and is 'holistic' in nature, meaning that the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects are all considered important. The Hospital's care team consists of highly skilled palliative care physicians, registered nurses, enrolled nurses and care assistants, chaplain, OT's, counsellors and a social worker.

A team of dedicated Hospital volunteers joins the care team to provide massage therapy, aromatherapy, social interaction and visits to the beautiful hospital garden as well as a small 'nip' from the drinks trolley in late afternoons whilst overlooking the beautiful Swan River.

The Hospital is committed to education and collaboration in palliative care, having just become partners in learning project with The University of Notre Dame (Australia) and University of Western Australia, as well being the only private hospital in WA to be a member of ehospice - first globally managed news app and website that will deliver international news and intelligence on hospice, palliative and end of life care.

Clinical Nurse Manager Glenys Thomas, who is justifiably proud of the excellent reputation of the PCU, describes the additional 6 single rooms with en-suites as giving private patients and families more choice in receiving skilled, comprehensive and compassionate care at a time of great need.

“We meet so many families who have stated they wished they had ‘found’ Bethesda sooner and that an admission to the PCU has made a tremendous difference to the care that their family member has received – often during the most difficult period of their lives” says Glenys.

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.

For additional information about the PCU Private palliative beds, please contact Glenys directly on 9340 6300 or visit www.bethesda.asn.au

Bethesda Hospital is an independent 88-bed Hospital in Claremont, Western Australia who has been providing outstanding care and service to their surrounding community for over 60 years.

Ends.....

Media Enquiries:

Naomi Quinlivan

0408 598 977

nquinlivan@bethesda.asn.au