Specialist Palliative Care Services in Tasmania have for many years been providing expert services to the Tasmanian community.

Palliative care aims to improve quality of life for patients by relieving the physical symptoms of the illness, providing care and support to help manage the emotional, social, cultural and spiritual issues which may arise, and by supporting the patient’s carers and family. The goal is to help people to live and die in a place of their choice where possible.

For patients with a life limiting illness, much of the care usually occurs at home and is provided by a network of carers, family, and health professionals. In general, most people are cared for by their General Practitioner and community nurses, with additional community services such as personal care, home help and support from trained volunteers.

The Australian Government has recently funded The Better Access to Palliative Care (BAPC) program over the next three (3) years to strengthen palliative care services in Tasmania. The aim is to increase Tasmania’s capacity to provide access to community based palliative care for people nearing the end of their life. Additional funding has been provided to the Tasmanian Health Organisations (THO) to employ some additional staff.

The Specialist Palliative Care Services (in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart) have some additional staff to deliver specialist services across the state. The Specialist Palliative Care teams are made up of a range of specialist staff (including doctors, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, pastoral care, occupational therapists and physiotherapists and volunteers) who work together with other services to meet the needs of the patient and their families.

Some of the members of the Specialist Palliative Care Service, Tasmanian Health Organisation North West.

From left to right: Gill Slater, Jude Altimira, Naomi Baldock, Lynley Menzani, Dr. Thiru, Judith Harris, Kendall Bastin, Michelle Brown, Jan Young, & Gaylene Reid.

Specialist Palliative Care Services have an important role in providing expert professional advice and support to GPs and other health care providers who are delivering palliative care services in the community, residential facilities and hospitals. They provide input into care planning including complex symptom management and access to additional support services.

There are some people however, that may experience severe or complex problems as their illness or condition progresses. These patients...
are usually referred to the Specialist Palliative Care Services for stabilisation, ongoing support and care.

Some of the team members of the Specialist Palliative Care Service, Tasmanian Health Organisation North.

Back row: Allison Taggart, Clare Fenwick, Mary Aspel, Linda Johnstone, Dr David Woods, Kate Dunne.

Middle row: Sue Schwabe, Angela Kuech. Front Row: Tricia Foreman-Francis, Caroline Thain, Leanne Barton.

More information:
If you would like further information about palliative care or the Specialist Palliative Care Services you can visit the DHHS Palliative Care website by following the link below:

www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/palliativecare

Contact:
If you would like to talk to a member of the Specialist Palliative Care Service please contact the team in your region:

THO South:
Specialist Palliative Care Service
Ph: 03 62242515

J. W. Whittle Palliative Care Unit
Ph: 03 62202400

THO North:
Specialist Palliative Care Service
Ph: 03 63365544

THO North West:
Specialist Palliative Care Service
Ph: 03 64407111

National Palliative Care Week:
25-31 May 2014

Let’s work together

Palliative care is everyone’s business and we all have a role to play. Let’s work together to provide quality care at the end of life for all.

This year the focus for National Palliative Care Week is on workforce. A calendar of events will soon be available for Tasmania.

You can find out more about National Palliative Care Week, palliative care, services and support at the Palliative Care Australia website:

palliativecare.org.au

Better Access to Palliative Care Program:
If you would like further information about the BAPC Program please contact:

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