Award winning Palliative Care Service celebrates sixth anniversary

With continued generosity from the Sunshine Coast community, one of Australia’s best palliative care services celebrated its sixth anniversary on Friday, 5 February 2016.

Nurse Unit Manager Clodagh Barwise-Smith said she was really proud of the service they provided to the community, improving the quality of life of patients and their families who were facing the problems associated with life-threatening illness.

Dove Palliative Care unit at Caloundra Health Service, has been delivering quality palliative care to the Sunshine Coast community since 5 February 2010.

Ms Barwise-Smith acknowledged the financial support the service had received from the community since its commencement six years ago had been invaluable.

“We are extremely grateful to the community for their continued, generous support, especially the Caloundra Hospital Auxiliary, including its own successful Bardo’s Bazaar, for the fitout of Dove Palliative Care,” she said.

“The service is also grateful for the support it receives from a number of other groups including Halcyon Park residents, Caloundra Rugby Leagues Club (Golf Division) for a two bedroom ward, Pelican Waters Bowls Club for a massage room, Caloundra Bowls Club Ladies for a lounge suite in the quiet room, Sunshine Indoor Bowls Caloundra for sunroom furniture, the Golden Beach Neighbourhood Watch, also Mr and Mrs P Locke for lights.

“We are also indebted to the continued support of Wishlist (Sunshine Coast Health Foundation), which enables us to continue to provide a high standard of service to our community,” she said.

Manager of Bardo’s, Mrs Beth Mangan, said she was pleased to be able to support the patients and staff of such a quality palliative care service.

“Six years after the Dove Palliative Care Unit opened, the volunteers and staff at Bardo’s Bazaar continue to work tirelessly for the unit, providing support through the purchasing of equipment and providing nurses to enable patients to stay at home should they so wish,” Mrs Mangan said.

“Bardo’s has also committed $500,000 towards the opening of the additional 10 new palliative care beds for the palliative care unit in Caloundra Health Service following refurbishment of the facility after the new university hospital opens.

“This is a wonderful example of how our community is helping each other. Through the donation of items, we’re able to give back to our community via the Bardo’s opportunity shop. In turn, all the money raised from Bardo’s is donated back to the hospital,” she said.
The Dove inpatient unit is an acute palliative care unit, caring for patients who require complex symptom management and discharge home as well as end of life care for patients with complex symptoms.

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service’s (SCHHS) Specialist Palliative Care Service is a national leader in patient care, recognised for its commitment to patients with the inaugural National Award for Outstanding Teamwork in September last year.

The service comprises teams at Nambour General Hospital and Dove Palliative Care unit at Caloundra Health Service, as well as an outreach community service.

For more information on the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service’s Specialist Palliative Care Service, phone 5470 5333.

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