

MEDIA RELEASE

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Room renovated for palliative care patients at Oakey Hospital

A project to renovate a previously under-used space and turn it into a palliative care suite is taking shape at the Oakey Hospital.

With support from the Friends of the Dr EAF McDonald Nursing Home, the project has enabled residents and patients of the Oakey Hospital to access a quiet, dignified space for their end-of-life care.

Oakey Hospital's Recreational Officer Lynda White said the renovations of the large room with adjoining ensuite and enclosed veranda was an ongoing project for the hospital.

"The room was totally gutted, the carpet was replaced, the painting redone and most recently bi-fold doors were installed to lead out to the veranda area," Ms White said.

"With the support of the 'Friends of McDonald', we hope to complete the room with a specialised palliative care bed, pull-out sofa lounge, curtains and soft furnishings."

The room also has a fridge, donated by Oakey Electrical, and a kitchenette area.

The importance of a dedicated palliative care suite was highlighted recently with the passing of two patients, who were able to be relocated to the renovated space.

"It was nice for the family to have a quiet area, away from the rest of the hospital and other patients to spend precious time with their loved ones," Acting Director of Nursing Lois Cobon said.

National Palliative Care Week runs from Sunday, 24 May to Saturday, 30 May.

"The national week is a good time for us at the Oakey Hospital to reflect on the services we provide to our patients during their end-of-life care," Ms Cobon said.

For more information about National Palliative Care Week visit <http://www.palliativecare.org.au/Home.aspx>

For more information on how to support the palliative care suite project at the Oakey Hospital contact Lynda White on 4691 4888.

Caption: Friends of the Dr EAF McDonald member George Lipman and Oakey Hospital's Lynda White in the recently renovated palliative care suite.

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