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National Palliative Care Week: You matter, your care matters

Next week Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) will celebrate, acknowledge and thank palliative care workers for making a difference in people’s lives.

National Palliative Care Week (21 – 28 May) this year celebrates the theme ‘You matter, your care matters. Palliative care can make a difference’.

To mark the week, SCHHS palliative care specialists will discuss end of life care at events at Sunshine Coast Health Institute at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, and at St Vincent’s Aged Care Facility in Maroochydore.

There are more than 350,000 Australians cared for by aged care services, and many of these people will face the end of their lives in aged care facilities.

Clinical Director of Palliative Care Services, Dr Louise Welch said this experience should be as comfortable and as positive as possible.

“Aged care staff are a vital part of palliative care; of ensuring that there is collaboration between the palliative care sector and their staff, and ensuring that people have a positive end of life experience.

“Demand for palliative care is increasing. Professionals and volunteers are needed in our community to support patients and carers deal with dying, death and bereavement.”

People entering aged care facilities need to be able to talk with their loved ones and health team about their end of life wishes and have a plan for when they need palliative care support.

“We encourage everyone to discuss their end of life wishes with their loved ones and health care team using the Dying to Talk Discussion Starter. Knowing what is important to you will reduce their burden at a difficult time and ensure you get the care you want,” Dr Welch said.


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