

Media Release

20 May 2021

The importance of good palliative care

Sunday 23 May – Saturday 29 May is National Palliative Care Week, with the theme of “Palliative Care - it’s more than you think.”, which seeks to raise awareness about the many benefits of quality palliative care.

VMCH CEO Sonya Smart says the organisation believes good palliative care is an essential part of their aged care residences and disability services, and noted that the new dedicated end-of-life, comfort care centre, VMCH O’Neill House, Prahran will be opening soon.

“This 22-bed palliative care home is the first of its kind, and a much needed resource for older people and their families requiring end of life support,” said Ms Smart.

“The spaces and services at O’Neill House will create the opportunity for residents and families to spend time together, reminisce and create new memories.

“O’Neill will offer a solution that provides older people with a choice, and the opportunity to die peacefully, surrounded by family and friends. We will also have our ever-supportive Pastoral Care Practitioners on site, to provide comfort and spiritual care for the resident and their families at what is a very difficult time.”

One of VMCH’s residents, Terry, recently passed away while living at VMCH Providence Aged Care Residence, Bacchus Marsh. As his health declined, he was supported by palliative care services and the VMCH care team.

Whilst it was a difficult time for his wife Linda and their daughters, they couldn’t fault the care that they all received from the staff.

“We felt so supported. They made us food, we had plenty to drink, they couldn’t do enough. They went above and beyond. I know it’s their job, but it was the compassion they showed us.”

[You can read more about Linda and Terry here.](#)

Ms Smart says stories like Linda and Terry’s show that we must continue to talk about dying.

“As a care organisation, we must ensure that our residents, clients and families feel supported at all times. I look forward to sharing more initiatives around our palliative care services this year, and how we are contributing positively to people’s lives, and deaths.”

Media enquiries

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About VMCH

Here at VMCH, our services are as diverse as the people we support.

Our values underpin the work we do. As a Catholic not for profit organisation, compassion, respect and inclusion aren't just words to us, they guide us in everything we do.

While we've been around for over a century, we're always moving forward. We stay true to who we are by supporting people and families to live their best lives, providing a place to call home and spaces to learn and grow.

Our professional and compassionate teams are with you on your life journey. We provide a wide range of support from early learning and therapy, specialist education, disability services, affordable homes, residential aged care, retirement living and at-home aged care.



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