

The Tasmanian Palliative Care Service

The Tasmanian Palliative Care Service has community teams around the state who work in both urban and rural areas.

They are all specialists in palliative care - nurses, medical practitioners, social workers, pastoral carers or trained volunteers. There are specialist palliative care liaison nurses who work closely with or within the Launceston General and Royal Hobart Hospitals.

Palliative care facilities

The Tasmanian Palliative Care Service has dedicated facilities for palliative care patients in Hobart (JW Whittle Palliative Care Unit) and Launceston (Philip Oakden House Hospice).

More information

For more information on any aspect of palliative care, please contact your nearest service:

State Office

1st Floor, Peacock Building
Repatriation Centre, Hampden Road
HOBART, TAS 7000
Ph: 03 6222 7265
email: state.palliativecare@dhhs.tas.gov.au

South

Community Palliative Care Team –
Ph: 03 6224 2515

J W Whittle, Palliative Care Unit –
Ph: 03 6220 2400

North

Community Palliative Care Team –
Ph: 03 6336 5544

North West

Community Palliative Care Team –
Ph: 03 6440 7111



Tasmania
DEPARTMENT of
HEALTH and
HUMAN SERVICES

Palliative Care



Every person affected by a life-threatening illness can access quality, specialist care appropriate to their needs.

TASMANIAN
PALLIATIVE CARE
SERVICE



What is palliative care?

Palliative care is the specialised care of people facing a life threatening illness.

It can be provided to people of any age and at any stage of their illness - from the time of diagnosis through the final days of their life.

Palliative care also provides a service to families, carers and loved ones during the period of illness, and following bereavement.

A range of services

The Tasmanian Palliative Care Service offers many different forms of assistance:

- ◆ **Comprehensive assessment** of the person seeking palliative care, including pain and symptom management, psychological, emotional, social and spiritual support;
- ◆ **Practical support** including equipment, information, referral to other services and liaison between health professionals such as GPs, community nurses, medical specialists and allied health workers;
- ◆ **Out-of-hours medical and nursing advice, information and support** to people who are registered with the Service. This is primarily a telephone advice line although a visit may be necessary;
- ◆ **Bereavement support** and counselling with support groups held from time to time;
- ◆ **Education** for families, professionals and community groups;
- ◆ **Consultation and liaison** with other health care professionals;
- ◆ **Trained volunteers** to assist people through respite visits, practical help with shopping, transport to and from appointments, companionship, and bereavement support.

Quality of life

Palliative care aims to enhance the quality of life of people living with a terminal illness, focusing on comfort rather than cure.

It recognises that the journey through an illness is physical, psychological, social, spiritual and cultural, and is experienced differently by each person and each family.

It can involve many people providing care - medical practitioners, nurses, social workers, other health professionals and volunteers.

A choice of settings

Palliative care is provided in many settings - in private homes, in hospitals, in nursing homes and in special palliative care units. Wherever possible, the choice is made by the person receiving care.