

Palliative Care

Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS) offers palliative care nursing to people from the initial stages of their diagnosis with a life-limiting illness, to when a cure is no longer possible. Palliative care aims to improve a person's quality of life, to promote comfort, provide pain and symptom management and supportive care throughout the progression of their disease.

Palliative care aims to make a person feel in control of their treatment. It also involves supporting the person's family and friends, recognising that they need to be prepared for the death of someone they love and supported throughout the grieving process.

Clinical Nurse Consultants, specialising in palliative care, provide clinical leadership, consultancy, and support to RDNS general nurses as well as the specialist palliative care nurses. Staff work closely with the client and their family or carer, and often utilise the expertise of RDNS' network of specialist nurses, including aged care and continence, wound care, stomal therapy, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and RDNS' Homeless Persons Program.

RDNS developed a holistic model of care to cover all aspects of its palliative care clients' needs, including physical, psychological, social and cultural components. The provision of RDNS' palliative care is always in collaboration with other care providers therefore RDNS develops links with specialist palliative care services and community supports, including the client's general practitioner, occupational therapists, social workers, local councils, hospitals and palliative care/hospice units.

The RDNS provides palliative care with an underlying premise that a holistic approach to care ensures that the total needs of the client are met. To this end, the palliative care nurses also work with allied health teams including, but not limited to, counseling, spiritual care, social work, volunteers, bereavement support and programs and often music therapy, art therapy and massage therapy.

RDNS operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from 20 locations across Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula and is also supported by a Customer Service Centre.

Media Contacts:

Dan Woods – 0410 416 276

Kathryn Muratore – 0488 901 003