



MEDIA RELEASE

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Local businesses support palliative care patients

Local businesses, and volunteers are making a real impact assisting palliative care services at South Western Sydney Area Health Service (SWSAHS) and will be officially thanked at a lunch function to be held in their honour.

Area volunteer coordinator Dianne Nicholson said that many local business groups including Camden Retravisio, Cabramatta Inn, Tim's Garden Centre and Garden Magic at Harrington Park have supported the service.

"We would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution made by local businesses to our cause and at the same time make the community aware of the impact they can make by giving their time, resources or a monetary donation," Ms Nicholson said.

The SWSAHS Palliative Care Service currently has 43 volunteers, 29 of who work in the Macarthur area providing short-term respite for carers and providing clients with comforts such as gentle massage, aromatherapy, reading or memory book writing.

"Becoming a volunteer brings immense personal satisfaction and helps those in need," Ms Nicholson said.

"Volunteers work with a team of people including specialist doctors, nurses and other health staff such as physiotherapists and social workers... providing an integral role in supporting patients as well as their families or carers at home."

Volunteers need to participate in an 8-week training course to learn communication skills, caring for people at home, bereavement support, and basic massage.

Future plans include a memorial garden for the Camden Hospital Palliative Care Unit, and a memorial service for past clients, all of which are being made possible by the generosity of volunteers and the community.

The thank you function will be held at 11.30am on Monday August 30 at Camden Valley Inn.

For further information on becoming a volunteer or providing support to the service please contact Dianne Nicholson on 9616 8656.

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