

25 May 2018

Beautiful blooms life spirits

Liverpool Hospital's Palliative Care Ward was full of vibrant colour and happiness this week after a special delivery of beautiful potted flowers from the Giác Huê Buddhist Temple in Cabramatta.

Buddhist Nun Huong Thien and Nhung Tran, from the Buddhist Temple, delivered the assorted flowers, which included orchids, to the ward to mark National Palliative Care Week and National Volunteer Appreciation Week.

Ms Arlene Roache, Volunteer Coordinator, South Western Sydney Local Health District Palliative Care Service, said the flowers brightened the day of 20 patients in the ward.

"The patients, families, staff and volunteers were touched and grateful by this amazing act of kindness," Ms Roache said.

"We were thrilled to again receive this lovely delivery of flowers and we thank the Buddhist temple very much."

Ms Roache said palliative care volunteers donated 20,777 hours to the South Western Sydney Local Health District in 2017 - an equivalent of \$498,648 in dollar value.

"Our volunteers, both in the hospital and the community, enhance patient care and bring joy and smiles to patients, families and staff, so this week we say thank you!" Ms Roache said.

"Palliative care volunteers are a special part of the hospital team, providing extra social support to patients, aside from their medical care.

"Sometimes patients would like someone to talk to, someone to listen to, or just someone to sit quietly with them."

Palliative care volunteer Margaret Rice described her role as "incredibly rewarding".

"My last client was very stoic and brave, so I admired him immensely. His wife, Judy, was his main carer at home. When I visited them, I was able to give her a bit of extra support," she said.

"We were able to talk about some of the things that were happening to the family and we chatted about other things, sharing a few laughs, which gave Judy a break."

Liverpool Hospital also held a display in its foyer to raise awareness of palliative care and the services available during Palliative Care Week.

For more information on the Palliative Care volunteer program contact Arlene Roache on 8738 9755.

