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## **Braeside Hospital improves palliative care experience**

Patients, families and carers will soon benefit from refurbishments to palliative care facilities at Braeside Hospital thanks to a \$250,000 boost from the NSW Government.

Hammondcare General Manager Health and Palliative Care Dr Andrew Montague said the funding would be used to create the Braeside Family Room, a residential lounge and dining room where relatives can gather and feel at home, share a meal, watch television and talk in private.

“The open-plan lounge, dining and kitchen area will have space for up to 24 family members, with activities, toys, gaming consoles and outdoor areas for children. It’s also separated from the clinical ward to give families space, and will have views of the landscaped gardens,” he said.

“The Braeside Family Room will make a positive difference in the community and provide a more tranquil and comfortable place for families to spend quality time together.”

Braeside Hospital is among 34 palliative care facilities to be refurbished over the next two years at a total of \$5.5 million.

South Western Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said the Braeside Family Room would be a home-like environment, bringing dignity and comfort to patients, families and carers.

“Ensuring that patients, their families and carers receive quality palliative care in a safe, comfortable and home-like environment is a priority for NSW Health,” Ms Larkin said.

Every year, the NSW Government spends more than \$220 million on palliative care services across the State. In addition to this funding, in 2020-21 a further \$16 million of enhancement funding was spent to improve services, including a boost of \$7.17 million for 35 allied health workers and 20 palliative care nurses across NSW.

The latest round of funding follows the success of \$4.5 million allocated for refurbishments in 2019-20 and 2020-21. Both funding rounds were part of a \$45 million enhancement for palliative care announced in the 2019-20 NSW Budget.

This enhancement and a further \$56 million announced in late 2020 support an additional 5,000 End of Life home support packages available across NSW from 1 July 2021; the recruitment of 100 new palliative care nurses; more Aboriginal Health workers; digital health to improve access to palliative care; enhanced bereavement services; and education to ensure a strong, competent workforce.

This is in addition to the \$100 million palliative care package announced in the 2017-18 Budget.