

11 January 2023

## Call for palliative care volunteers

The Palliative Care team at South Western Sydney is looking for compassionate people to join the palliative care volunteers in 2023.

This outstanding team won the 2021 Volunteer Team Award from the Centre for Volunteering for their innovative work caring for people through the COVID-19 pandemic.

District Palliative Care Coordinator Arlene Roache said no formal qualifications or previous experience was necessary and full training is provided, with the next course starting in early February 2023.

“There are various roles available to palliative care volunteers, which can involve hospital or home-based patient and carer support, or administrative assistance,” Ms Roache said.

“Palliative care volunteering offers an opportunity for people to be involved with others at one of the most significant times in their lives and is one of the most rewarding volunteer choices anyone can make.

“Not only does it make a huge difference to the person who is dying and their family, but also to the volunteer's own life. Volunteers learn to cherish each day, listen deeply and value life as a precious gift.”

If you are over 18 and interested in attending the training commencing in early February 2023, please contact the Palliative Care Volunteer Coordinator on 8738 9755 by Friday 13th January 2023.

South Western Sydney Local Health District has invested \$15.2 million into palliative care this financial year and includes care in our facilities and at home.

In its 2022 budget, The NSW Government announced an investment of \$743 million over five years to ensure NSW residents have access to the highest quality care and pain management services for end-of-life care. This funding boost, on top of the \$300 million the NSW Government already invests each year in palliative care, will deliver an additional 600 staff once the program is fully rolled out, and new dedicated palliative care units in two major hospitals, Westmead and Nepean, as well as developing and refurbishing existing palliative care facilities across the State.