



Swan Hill Palliative Care Nurses are Winners.

Sunday 22 May 2022 onwards

The theme of this year's National Palliative Care Week (NPCW); 'Palliative Care *It's your right*', seeks to raise awareness about the rights of all Australians to access high-quality palliative care when and where they need it.

Acknowledging that palliative care is a universal human right, this year's theme seeks to broaden the community's perceptions, understanding and appreciation of palliative care, demonstrating its role in supporting the physical, emotional, spiritual and social needs of people living with a life-limiting illness, their families and their care team.

NPCW (22-28 May) is Australia's largest annual awareness-raising initiative to increase understanding of the many benefits of palliative care; that with adequate access to timely palliative care, people with a life-limiting illness are able to keep doing what they love with friends and family.

Each year NPCW is also an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the work of not only hundreds of palliative care specialists and palliative care nurses, but also the support provided by general practitioners, volunteers, allied health professionals, community workers and everyone who works within the palliative care sector.

"Palliative care is available to people with a serious and life-limiting illness and their families, to assist in managing their symptoms, improve their quality of life and help them to live as well as possible, for as long as possible," said Violet Platt, CEO, Palliative Care Victoria.

In Victoria, we have a unique opportunity to celebrate palliative care nurses with the presentation of the Noala Flynn AM Award for Excellence in Palliative Care Nursing.

During National Palliative Care Week, Palliative Care Victoria is pleased to announce the Winner of the Noala Flynn AM, Excellence in Palliative Care Nursing is the Swan Hill Community Palliative Care Service.

Noala Flynn AM was a passionate palliative care nurse and leader who worked tirelessly to support those in palliative care. Her amazing contribution resulted in her being awarded the Member of the Order of Australia in 2005 for services to palliative care.

Following Noala's passing her family wanted to continue Noala's work by recognising outstanding palliative care nursing through this annual award. It is fitting that this first award was nominated by a family who received care from the winners. "Noala went above and beyond for her 'families' if they needed something to help them better care for a loved one at home, she somehow made it happen" Gerald Flynn – Noala's husband.

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Violet Platt says that palliative care workers and services have a deep understanding of the difficult situations people near the end of their life or with a life-limiting illness often face.

“They can be instrumental in balancing a variety of perspectives and incorporating the psychological, social, and spiritual concerns of patients, their families and the staff caring for them. They are also there to support the loved ones of people near the end of their life and help them live through their grief and bereavement.”

Palliative Care Victoria congratulates the Swan Hill Community Palliative Care Team on this award. We are delighted to have such worthy winners of the first Noala Flynn AM Excellence in Palliative Care Nursing.

It is appropriate to give the final word to the nominator who concluded her nomination, “The Swan Hill Palliative Care Team are my Heroes.”

For more information about National Palliative Care Week (22 – 28 May 2022) visit:

<https://palliativecare.org.au/event/national-palliative-care-week-2022/>

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