



PalliativeCare
TASMANIA

Tasmanian Association for Hospice
and Palliative Care Inc.

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Media Release

National Palliative Care Week 2016

National Palliative Care Week (22-28 May) this year focusses on 'Living Well with Chronic Illness' and provides the perfect opportunity for friends and family to encourage people with life-limiting conditions to make their wishes known says Palliative Care Tasmania General Manager, Colleen Johnstone.

"Without knowing what our loved ones want we cannot advocate for it on their behalf. It means more people will be able to live in the way they want until the end, with the help of palliative care." Ms Johnstone said.

"Four out of five deaths in Australia are caused by chronic illness, but there is a misconception that only cancer patients can access palliative care. People with chronic illnesses often have more than one chronic illness which affects their health in different ways." Ms Johnstone said.

"Many don't realise that palliative care can help people with chronic illnesses to live well. Early access to palliative care can help them have a better quality of life".

Ms Johnstone said that palliative care offers many things, including pain and symptom management, to give people as much time as possible as they live with their life limiting illness. "Palliative care isn't just for the individual but also supports those people like carers and friends and family and takes care of the whole person." She said

This National Palliative Care Week Palliative Care Tasmania will hold the first ever 'Dying to Talk' Expo in Launceston and Hobart - a trade fair that focuses on organisations and service providers who help us to live and die well.

PCT will also host a lunch which will see executives from the government, not for profit and private sectors come together to hear guest speakers Liz Callaghan, CEO Palliative Care Australia, Kerrie Noonan, founding member of the Groundswell Project and Bruce Rumbold, Director of the Palliative Care Unit at La Trobe University share their individual perspectives on the palliative care landscape in Australia.

National Palliative Care Week runs 22-28 May 2016. More information is available at <http://palliativecare.org.au/national-palliative-care-week/>

For more information about the events run by Palliative Care Tasmania

Visit: www.tas.palliativecare.org.au

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