How do I become a Community Palliative Care Volunteer?

The first step is to contact the Community Palliative Care Volunteer Coordinator.

They will ask you to complete an application package, and to provide documents so we can conduct clearance checks.

We then invite you to an interview so you can find out more about the community volunteer role, and we can find out more about you.

Those people selected will complete the introductory training program, and prepare for community service following consultation with the Community Palliative Care Volunteer Coordinator.

Aboriginal people and people from culturally & linguistically diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

For more information about Community Palliative Care Volunteers please contact:

Janet Pearce
Community Palliative Care Volunteer Coordinator
Far West Local Health District
Broken Hill
Telephone: (08) 80801733
Mobile: 0428 913 303

Email: janet.pearce@health.nsw.gov.au

Do you have the compassion, commitment and time to volunteer and support someone with a life limiting illness?
Who can be a Volunteer?

Volunteers are adults of all ages, and come from all walks of life.

Volunteers are chosen for their:

- Warmth and understanding
- Communication skills
- Emotional maturity
- Acceptance of others
- Ability to respect confidentiality
- Openness to learn from those they serve

Most needed is a generous loving heart; a lot of common sense, and the ability to just ‘Be’ with people.

Training & Preparation

Participation in the introductory training program is required. The course is 25 hours (in total)

Topics covered include:

- Introduction to Palliative Care
- The Role of the Volunteer
- Communication Skills
- Spirituality
- Loss and Grief
- Diversity
- Palliative Care Illnesses
- Workplace Health and Safety
- Professional Boundaries
- Self Care

Participants do not sit exams but are asked to reflect on their learning and experiences during the program.

Volunteers are supported and encouraged to commit to ongoing development, and attendance at meetings and training.

What do Community Palliative Care Volunteers do?

They offer companionship and support to people living with a life limiting illness at home, their carers and families.

Community Volunteers provide:

- A confidential listening ear
- Compassion and Comfort
- Companionship
- Practical help with appointments or errands
- Relief for carers
- Extra support for outings
- Bereavement support

“Community Palliative Care Volunteering offers the opportunity and privilege to support and be involved with others at one of the most significant times in their lives”.

Volunteers are asked to commit from two to four hours per week to their volunteering role.