



**HOPE  
HEALTHCARE**

# media release

*For immediate use  
Basis for article:*

## **Acknowledging and celebrating the work of palliative care Volunteers – an integral part of the palliative care team**

Jim Davidson of Turramurra belongs to a committed and dedicated group of people – the over 100 volunteers who assist the Palliative Care Services of Northern Sydney Health. Jim has been a volunteer for over 10 years, providing support and practical help wherever required. Jim volunteers at Hope Healthcare's Neringah Hospital in the Upper North Shore, but there are people just like him at Hope Healthcare's Greenwich Hospital in the Lower North Shore and also working with the Northern Beaches Palliative Care Services on the Peninsula.

Dr Deborah Campbell, Director of Palliative Care Services, Northern Sydney Health said volunteers assist in giving that extra dimension of care and are all special people, "You cannot single out any one of these wonderful volunteers over another – they are all so special, giving their time and energy in a so many different ways.

"Volunteers are a diverse group of people, from many walks of life. They range from those with full-time jobs to those who have retired, from 21 to 70 year old plus, both men and women. Some can only help once per month, some are keen to assist all through the week."

"Volunteers contribute whatever they have the skills and energy to do. They are involved in a variety of areas both within the hospital and within the community helping patients and their families in their own homes. Some are involved in art groups, others gardening, massage, operating Neringah's kiosk, driving patients and their families to treatments or to picnics, scone days and floral arrangements. We even have volunteer dogs, brought by their owners as part of the Pets as Therapy Program. They provide support, a chat or a friendly face."

The volunteers themselves have a lot of fun and leave with the satisfaction of a job well done.

Any enquiries about Volunteering, contact the local Volunteer Coordinator:  
Anne McIntyre at Greenwich Hospital (Part of Hope Healthcare) 9903 8333,  
Dimity Compston at Neringah Hospital (Part of Hope Healthcare), Wahroonga 9488 2200,  
Or Anne Owers at Mona Vale Hospital 9997 3555.

***Sydney 15 October 2001***

*For more information ☎ Robert Britton on 9488 2275*

### *Specialised public health care*

Hope Healthcare *incorporating*  
**Neringah Hospital      Greenwich Hospital      Graythwaite Nursing Home      Braeside Hospital**  
A ministry of the Anglican Diaconess Institution Sydney