



**HOPE
HEALTHCARE**
media release

100 Years of Hope
a Century of Care

For immediate use

**Celebration of 100 years of compassionate care
Garden High Tea & Historical Display**

As part of Hope Healthcare's celebrations of our Century of Care, a 'Garden High Tea and Historical Display' was held 2pm to 4pm, Saturday 22 September 2007 in the grounds of Greenwich Hospital.

The Historical Display was staged in the 1892 era Pallister House, now home to Hope Healthcare's administration. The Garden High Tea was held in a marquee in a style reminiscent of significant celebrations in the organisations' earliest days.

Guest Speaker at the Garden High Tea, Marlene Mathews AO, Olympian, former coach, sports administrator and today National Patron of the Australian Palliative Care Foundation, spoke of her 'Golden Days' as an athlete through the 1950s. She provided some colourful anecdotes and talked about the highs and also the lows as a sportswoman.

Marlene went on to relate the loss of her son, Tod, to a terminal illness just on two years ago and the experience of palliative care at Greenwich Hospital, looking after not just the patient but providing comfort and support to family and friends.

"I know I could not have got through the tragedy of losing a son if it had not been for the caring nature and support of the staff at Greenwich Hospital. The doctors, nurses and all the team working in palliative care are exceptional people," she said.

Because of her personal experiences she had willingly taken on her current role as National Patron of the Australian Palliative Care Foundation.

Background – Hope Healthcare

On Tuesday 17 September in 1907 the NSW Governor Sir Harry Rawson had officially opened our first facility, a hospice for the terminally ill at Petersham called the Home of Peace.

Neringah Hospital, Wahroonga was added in 1954, Greenwich Hospital in 1966 and Braeside Hospital at Prairiewood in Sydney's southwest in 1996. Graythwaite Nursing Home at North Sydney came under our management in 1980 and Northern Beaches Palliative Care Service at Mona Vale, in 2002.

Today Hope Healthcare has expanded to provide a range of specialised public health and community services. These include palliative care, rehabilitation, mental health care for older people and community and aged services.

The single enduring area has been our provision of palliative care and today is provided at all our hospitals as well as community settings.

Sydney 24 September 2007

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■ Aged Care Psychiatry

■ Community & Aged Services

■ Palliative Care

■ Rehabilitation

**Specialised Public
Health & Community Services**

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