



**HOPE
HEALTHCARE**

media release

For immediate use

100 Years of Hope
a Century of Care

Value of donated service – our thanks to our Volunteers National Volunteer Week 12 to 18 May 2008

It has recently been estimated that our wonderful Volunteers in Sydney's north contribute almost \$300,000 value of donated time each year to Hope Healthcare's facilities. These facilities include Greenwich and Neringah Hospitals, Graythwaite Nursing Home and the Northern Beaches Palliative Care Service.

The estimate takes account of our 103 volunteers in the north undertaking many diverse roles. Their support is provided across a wide range of areas including bereavement counselling, pastoral care, social work, catering, therapy, transport, carer respite and community care.

Hope Healthcare Chief Executive Officer Mark Newton said that placing a monetary value on the Volunteer effort in this way helps highlight their significant contribution to our work and it was especially appropriate to acknowledge this effort. "With the National Volunteer Week theme 'Volunteers Change Our World', we can honestly say that our volunteers help change the world of our patients and clients and their families, and their voluntary contribution to these people and effectively the broader community is quite outstanding. To them all, our heartfelt thanks."

As an example of our Volunteer's contribution, with the vital help of Bereavement Support Volunteers, we provide a telephone-based support service to family of palliative care patients at Neringah and Greenwich Hospitals and the Northern Beaches Palliative Care Service. Bereavement Support Volunteers contact bereaved family members approximately six weeks after their relative has died. They provide short-term telephone support and if needed, referral to our Bereavement Service.

Bereavement Support Volunteer Alan Totman has been based at Wahroonga's Neringah Hospital for over three years. He said he finds the role very satisfying; "It gives somebody grieving a chance to talk to someone they don't know, about feelings that they may not feel comfortable talking to their own close family and friends about."

National Volunteer Week is from 12 to 18 May 2008 with the theme - "Volunteers Change Our World" and is an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the more than 5 million Australians who volunteer.

New volunteers are always welcome in Hope Healthcare and those interested in contributing should contact Volunteer Manager Daphne Hoade on 9903 8333 for an initial discussion.

Sydney 12 May 2008

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