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# media release

*For immediate use*

**Palliative Care Day Hospital – one of three palliative care services based  
at Braeside Hospital**

**National Palliative Care Week - 24 to 30 May 2009**

***Raising awareness of palliative care***

Bonnyrigg resident 56-year-old Elizabeth Coupe has been a regular at the Braeside Palliative Care Day Hospital since July 2008 after her earlier admission to the inpatient unit following on her liver cancer.

In her time at Braeside, Elizabeth has been seen by nearly all of the multidisciplinary palliative care team including the chaplain, dietitian, social worker, occupational therapist, physiotherapist and massage therapist, as well of course as the medical and nursing members plus the volunteers. Symptom management and treatment for depression has made a big difference to her well-being.

Elisabeth is dropped off every Tuesday and Thursday morning at the Day Hospital by her husband Brian and heads back home after lunch.

She has especially enjoyed the companionship and various activities at the Day Hospital, coordinated by the diversional therapist; activities as diverse as pokerwork and working her way through knitting patterns for stuffed toys. She now has made a dozen stuffed toys – a lot but not quite enough for her 25 grandchildren.

The Palliative Care Day Hospital provides a comprehensive service to support patients who are registered with the Braeside Palliative Care Service and after assessment by the Day Hospital team. The aim is to give social, spiritual, emotional and physical support to our patients and their carers. In addition to the Day Hospital, Braeside Hospital has an inpatient unit and is the base for the community palliative care service, serving the local community.

*This years theme for National Palliative Care Week is: "If Only I Knew" - focussing on raising awareness of Palliative Care and the issues that surround it.*

***Sydney 15 May 2009***

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