

Media Release

27 May 2021

Compassionate volunteers needed for unique roles

VMCH is recruiting for a group of special volunteers to support people in their final stages of life.

Our new palliative care service, O'Neill House in Prahran, is the first of its kind; offering older people with the opportunity to die peacefully, surrounded by family and friends.

The 22-bed home, due to open in June, has been specially-designed for residents and families to spend time together, reminiscing and creating new memories. Pastoral Care Practitioners will be there to provide comfort and spiritual care for the resident and their families at what is a very difficult time.

We are looking for compassionate and caring people to volunteer non-clinical support, care and practical help for residents and their loved ones.

- Are you a retired hospitality worker who could help with tea and coffee making or baking?
- A florist who could spend some time arranging beautiful flowers?
- A talented musician who could play calming and uplifting music?
- A keen sewer who could mend clothes?
- A tech-savvy person who could assist with downloading cherished family photos?

These are just some of a huge variety of roles which will help enrich a resident's life before they pass away.

We understand the role could be confronting, so Pastoral Care Practitioners will be onsite to provide support whenever necessary.

Maree Gilbert is one of 16 VMCH Pastoral Care Practitioners whose role involves supporting individuals, their families and the VMCH community through the end of life journey. She looks at palliative care as "a privilege not everyone gets".

"Sudden and unexpected death does not give us the opportunity to say our goodbyes. In my role I hope to support the dying and their families to journey through this time with a sense of not being alone."

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in this unique and fulfilling role, please call 1800 036 377 or email volunteers@vmch.com.au.

All volunteers will be given a full induction and ongoing support. Volunteers need to undertake three, three-hour workshops prior to starting their roles in late June.

Screening checks, including a police check and other relevant compliance checks, must be undertaken prior to commencement.

Media enquiries

Cassie Zlonzak

Communications Adviser

M: 0402 422 852

E: cassie.zlonzak@vmch.com.au

W: www.vmch.com.au

About VMCH

Here at VMCH, our services are as diverse as the people we support.

Our values underpin the work we do. As a Catholic not for profit organisation, compassion, respect and inclusion aren't just words to us, they guide us in everything we do.

While we've been around for over a century, we're always moving forward. Always staying true to who we are by supporting people and families to live their best lives; providing a place to call home and spaces to learn and grow.

Our professional and compassionate teams are with you on your life journey; helping you with a wide range of support from early learning and therapy, specialist education, disability services, affordable homes, residential aged care, retirement living and at-home aged care.

