



## Nursing, Caloundra Health Service Palliative Care Unit (Dove)

### Location:

West Terrace  
Caloundra QLD 4551  
Telephone: 5426 8633

### Shift Times

| Early (E)   | Late (L)    | Night (NW)  |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 0700 - 1530 | 1430 - 2300 | 2245 - 0710 |

Shift times may vary dependant on the clinical requirements of each area, please ensure you are familiar with your rostered shift times and any variances at commencement of placement (weekend shift times etc.)

### Placement Details

The Palliative Care Unit is a specialist-built unit to cater for those individuals who are suffering from a life limiting illness and for whom the primary treatment goal is quality of life. At present, Dove House has 18 permanent beds available for community clients as well as transfers from other districts and hospitals and 4 day care beds. All palliative care staff members work as a cohesive team, attending to the needs of the patients, involving the family members and friends in the patient's treatment needs. The principle goals of the specialist palliative care team will be relief of pain and other symptoms using specialised assessment and management. The delivery of this care is provided by the specialist, multidisciplinary palliative care team and is a comprehensive, holistic, coordinated and managed program.

The palliative care team aims to:

- Provide symptom management
- Identify and manage patient/family psychological needs
- Discuss spiritual/cultural needs
- Discuss end of life wishes and setting/ legal issues – Acute Resuscitation Plan (ARP) or escalate to Team Leader

### Learning Objectives/Opportunities

- Assessment skills, palliative care outcomes through collaboration with team members
- Medication management (Oral, and injectables)
- Syringe drivers (subcutaneous)
- Learning about the unique assessment tools-end of life pathway
- Participating/observing advanced communication skills
- Wound care
- Liaising with Medical and Allied Health services to facilitate the patient journey
- Documentation
- Participating/observing in the care of the dying
- Vital signs, reporting and recording
- Patient care needs i.e. shower/ bed sponge, oral care
- Assessments - skin integrity - prevention of pressure areas, fall risks

### Pre-reading/revisiting

Assessment, care planning, end of life pathway, and communication for patients with changing health status and pain assessment would be recommended prior to commencement of clinical placement.