



**Transforming
Health**



Modernising Palliative Care Services in Southern Adelaide

Best Care. First Time. Every Time.



Concept image: Southern Adelaide Palliative Services will be relocated to a new, purpose-built facility at Flinders Medical Centre.

Transforming Health will see clinical services currently provided at the Repatriation General Hospital relocated to other sites across metropolitan Adelaide, including acute medical, surgical and rehabilitation services.

This means that palliative care services currently provided at Daw House Hospice would not be able to meet the clinical standards, developed by our clinicians through the Transforming Health process, if it was to remain as a stand-alone unit on the site.

As a result, Southern Adelaide Palliative Services will be relocated to a new, purpose-built facility at Flinders Medical Centre which will provide state-of-the-art facilities and access to services that patients need and deserve at the end stages of life.



Palliative care has changed

When Daw House Hospice first opened in 1988, patients were referred to the service in the late stages of their illness for end-of-life care.

Since this time palliative medicine as a specialty area has expanded, and new developments have been introduced through research. The biggest advancement has been in an area known as symptom management, which promotes improved quality of life. This has changed the nature of the hospice from being used solely as a place where people come to die, to a place where active symptom management can also be provided.

The current hospice

While Southern Adelaide Palliative Services has delivered a high standard of care for many years, the Daw House Hospice facility is no longer suitable for modern day palliative care. It is unable to offer single room accommodation for all patients, and can have up to four patients sharing one bathroom. This means that people in the hospice at the end stages of life are sharing their most private and intimate times in the observation of other families who are not connected to them.

The hospice has a roof that leaks and rising salt damp on internal walls, which can be difficult for families who expect a better environment in which to receive care. Staff often tell patients that if they can “ignore the building”, the care they will receive will be fantastic. It has been this way for a significant period of time.

Being located on the grounds of the Repatriation General Hospital has also meant the hospice has access to other medical specialities, which is critical to addressing the symptom management needs of patients. However, once acute medical, surgical and rehabilitation services are relocated to other sites, the hospice will no longer meet the clinical standards of care or be able to maintain the quality of services currently provided.

A new purpose-built facility

In April 2015, the Minister for Health established a Clinical Working Party to consider and make recommendations about the future service delivery model of care for palliative care services in southern Adelaide, including where they should be relocated.

In planning the future of palliative care, the Working Party considered the growth of palliative medicine and the many recent developments in palliative care treatment, before recommending Flinders Medical Centre as the future location of Southern Adelaide Palliative Services.

Flinders Medical Centre has many advantages. It will enable a new, purpose-built facility co-located with acute medical services, access to a large rooftop garden and other shared spaces, and will provide opportunities to work alongside other health professionals for the provision of end-of-life care.

The new facility will have 15 single rooms, providing more privacy and dignity for patients and a better working environment for clinicians. It will continue to be a welcoming and supportive environment where life can be celebrated and grief can be expressed by patients and families.



Concept image: Southern Adelaide Palliative Services will have a large rooftop garden at Flinders Medical Centre.

Quality of life for patients

We know that patients want to be at home as much as possible, not in hospital. By providing palliative care services at Flinders Medical Centre, patients will have access to speciality services, such as radiotherapy and acute pain management, on the same site. This means patients will be able to receive treatment for their symptoms, and then return to their families, with the aim of maintaining a high quality of life for as long as possible.

Co-locating palliative care with other medical services will ensure patients receive the best care, first time, every time.

Comprehensive palliative care services

The services provided by Southern Adelaide Palliative Services are based on its classification as a tertiary referral centre, and include:

- > providing comprehensive care for patients with complex needs, and support for their caregivers and families;
- > establishing and maintaining formal links with primary care providers (e.g. general practitioners);
- > supporting a designated number of specialist palliative care services based in country South Australia;
- > contributing to high quality specialist research, advanced clinical training and graduate education programs; and
- > integrating links to relevant academic units.

With the services currently provided at the Repatriation General Hospital relocating to other sites, Flinders Medical Centre is the only site within Southern Adelaide that will enable the service to maintain its status as a tertiary referral centre. Along with providing access to other acute medical services for our patients, relocating to Flinders Medical Centre will allow the service to continue to integrate clinical practice with research and teaching.



Concept image: Palliative care room at Flinders Medical Centre.

Research

Southern Adelaide Palliative Services is the only adult Specialist Palliative Care Service in Adelaide to have a dedicated and internationally recognised research unit engaged in clinical trials, with strong links to other clinical areas and an active affiliation with an academic teaching program and clinical researchers through the Department of Palliative and Supportive Studies, Flinders University.

As a part of the future plans, the Department of Palliative and Supportive Studies will be co-located with the hospice, ensuring we remain engaged in cutting edge research, which informs education and ultimately is translated into world class comprehensive clinical care.

For more information

Visit: transforminghealth.sa.gov.au

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Public-13-A2

