

MEDIA RELEASE

Clare Holland House \$6m expansion and community fundraising appeal launched today

Calvary Health Care and the Snow Foundation launched the Clare Holland House \$6m expansion today and invite the community to be part of the new development through a community fundraiser.

The expansion will increase the hospice's capacity to service palliative care patients by around 30 per cent—or an additional 250 people from the Canberra region per year—with eight new beds.

ACT Minister for Health Rachel Stephen-Smith said this was a wonderful step forward for palliative care and community support in the ACT.

“Clare Holland House is well-loved in the community due to its expertise in assisting patients and families achieve dignity and comfort, and in enhancing the quality of life for patients coming to the end of their lives,” she said.

“This expansion project, which is due to be completed in mid-2021, will boost palliative care services in the Territory as the community grows.

“We know that our community is ageing, and with that, more people will need access to palliative care services; these expansion works will provide an additional eight palliative care inpatient beds to enable more Canberrans to access end of life care.

“The expansion will also see improvements made to clinical support areas and added features to create a more family-friendly environment and enable loved ones to stay with patients on site.

“The expansion will also support the continued growth of outpatient and outreach palliative care treatment in our region.”

Chief Executive Officer of the Snow Foundation, Georgina Byron, launched the Clare Holland House community fundraiser today saying it gives people the opportunity to donate to the internal works of the hospice expansion.

“When we first started discussing the expansion project, it was important to us to open this up to the whole community so they could be part of it, we know many people have a lot of affection for Clare Holland House as a place they hold very dear to them. The \$6m is for the build and it is the extra touches funded by the community appeal that will make this place even more special. It is the furnishings, furniture and fittings, along with gardens and landscaping that will enhance the amenity and environment for patients and their friends and family.

“The Snow Foundation is delighted to be able to help bring the expansion project to fruition. We know it will help thousands in our community for years to come and everyone is welcome to contribute to this expansion if they would like to”.

Medical Director of Clare Holland House, Dr Suharsha Kanathigoda reaffirmed Calvary's commitment to delivering personalised, compassionate, skilful and culturally considerate palliative care from Clare Holland House.



“We are extremely grateful for the support of the Snow Foundation who gave \$2m and the Federal Government who gave \$4m to enable this expansion—and of course the ongoing support of the ACT Government to help us run the facility,” Dr Kanathigoda said.

“Clare Holland House continues to be an integral part of the Canberra community. We offer world class clinical palliative care for our patients so that they may have the best possible end of life experience. We are of course also always here for the many families and friends who are part of the patients’ journey.

“The Little Company of Mary was established in the 1870s to deliver care to the dying. Palliative care remains our passion and our specialty, and a community service we provide to this day through Clare Holland House—a service we intend to provide for many years into the future.”

The Clare Holland House Community Fundraising appeal will operate through Hands Across Canberra, the ACT’s community foundation. To find more information about the project and to donate visit www.snowfoundation.org.au

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