

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What is Sunshine Hospice?

Sunshine Hospice Ltd is a not-for-profit charity established in 2008 to provide the highest standard of palliative care for people who are dying on the Sunshine Coast and compassionate support for their carers, partners, families and friends.

What is the Sunshine Hospice vision?

An experienced hospice operator, Sunshine Hospice has recently achieved significant milestones towards its vision of building the coast's first ever purpose-built community hospice.

- Three years of fundraising, with 200 volunteers working across four op shops.
- Architecture designed plans for a six-bed, 24/7 residential hospice.
- Entered into contract to purchase 6100m² of land at 7-15 Illuka Street, Buderim (announced May 2019).
- Consultation within the community.
- Development application lodged with Sunshine Coast Council (22 May 2019).

What is a hospice?

A hospice cares for a terminally ill person's physical, spiritual and psychological wellbeing, as well as supporting loved ones.

A hospice is not a hospital, but rather a peaceful home away from home.

Sunshine Hospice will be a quiet place: architecturally designed and surrounded by natural bushland and landscaped areas, providing a tranquil environment for patients.

What will the hospice provide?

Sunshine Hospice will provide a sanctuary for care at the end of life. It will have both a private health facility licence and accreditation; key factors in gaining government funding, private health fund rebates and Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) funding.

The hospice will have family accommodation (allowing loved ones to stay close and connected), offering 24/7 residential end-of-life care, respite palliative care, community palliative care and grief and bereavement counselling. We will also provide care for children facing a life limiting illness and provide support for their families.

The hospice will offer evidenced-based palliative care training to health care professionals, linking with hospitals and educational institutions.

Importantly, hospice care will be delivered free of charge to the patient.

Why a hospice on the Sunshine Coast?

The current number of hospice beds does not meet current needs, let alone future needs.

The Sunshine Coast population is expected to grow to 500,000+ by 2041 (from 320,000 now).



Around 80% of Australians who die each year are over 65 and with the Sunshine Coast experiencing significant growth in the 75+ age bracket, this means deaths by terminal illness will also grow significantly.

Who wants a hospice?

70% of Australians say they would prefer to die at home. The reality is only 14% of people are able to do so. Most will die in an acute hospital or aged care facility.

A new hospice will provide choice for Australians who can't die at home but want to be somewhere other than a hospital or aged care facility.

Hospice care reduces the financial burden on the public health system as it can provide overnight palliative care at a cheaper rate than in a hospital setting and the cost is shared with the community via fundraising efforts. It also frees up public beds and allows the dying person to spend their last days in a peaceful, homelike and compassionate environment.

What will the hospice look like?

Sunshine Hospice will be tastefully and sensitively designed to consider the amenity of the street and the needs of the local residents and patients. It will be surrounded by natural bushland and landscaped gardens, providing a private and tranquil environment for patients.

How will the hospice be funded?

Hospice care will be delivered free of charge to the patient. In a similar way to other hospices in Queensland, it will be sustained by a range of funding sources including community fundraising, private health funds, Department of Veterans' Affairs and Government.

When will the hospice open?

The timing of the opening is dependent on gaining necessary council approvals, as well as on fundraising efforts and the successful negotiation of capital and recurrent funding.

Our immediate task is to obtain approval from Sunshine Coast Council for our development application to build the 6 bed hospice at 7-15 Illuka Street, Buderim.

We need the support of the Sunshine Coast community.