

## Information Sheet

### Annual Commemoration Day Service

Thursday 14 October 2010, 7:00 to 8:15 PM

Winthrop Hall, University of Western Australia, Crawley

#### What is the Annual Commemoration Day Service?

The Annual Commemoration Day Service is a secular ceremony which commemorates those who have recently died in Western Australia. It is organised by Palliative Care WA Inc for the entire community.

Palliative Care WA Inc has clear health-promoting objectives for the Annual Commemoration Day Service: to assist with building the Western Australian community's capacity, and to support people in their own endeavours, to cope with loss, grief and bereavement.

Specifically, we aim to:

- provide fellowship through a ceremony, the provision of refreshments and an opportunity for people to meet informally
- incorporate, where-ever possible, evidence-based practice to support people coping with loss, grief and bereavement and develop community capacity in these areas
- acknowledge and use elements from a range of traditions which help people cope with loss, grief and bereavement
- acknowledge the history of the St Luke's Day Service in Perth.

#### Who can come to the Annual Commemoration Day Service?

All Western Australians who have experienced the loss of someone close to them in the past year or so are welcome to attend the Service.

Although the event is organised by Palliative Care WA Inc, palliative care will not be the sole focus of the Service. We recognise that many people do not access or need input from a palliative care service when they are dying, while others die unexpectedly, and that those close to these people might benefit from participation in the Annual Commemoration Day Service.

There is no need to RSVP for this event, attendees should simply turn up on the evening. There is no charge or cost.

#### What will happen on the evening?

The doors of Winthrop Hall will be open from 6:30. The event will commence at 7:00 PM.

There will be several speakers, some of whom will give short talks (no longer than five minutes each), while others will read carefully selected texts which relate to loss and grief. People from a range of backgrounds (including people from the general community who have recent experience of loss and grief) will share their personal thoughts, insights and understandings. A choir will perform at different stages.

Members of the audience will be invited to light a candle to commemorate someone close to them. The candles will be provided.

After the formal ceremony finishes at about 8:15 PM, all participants will be invited to a simple supper of tea or coffee and biscuits.

All participants will be provided with a program.

#### Why choose 14 October 2010?

This year we have chosen 14 October because it falls between World Hospice and Palliative Care Day (9 October 2010) and St Luke's Day.

For several years Palliative Care WA Inc helped organise the annual St Luke's Day Service in Perth for the family members and friends of people who had died in palliative care during the previous year. The Service was held on the Thursday evening closest to St Luke's Day, which falls on 18 October each year.

#### Where can I get more information?

- 24-hour telephone counselling from Lifeline: [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au) ☎ 13 1114
- Palliative Care WA Inc: [www.palliativecarewa.asn.au](http://www.palliativecarewa.asn.au) ☎ 1300 551 704
- GriefLink website: [www.grieflink.org.au](http://www.grieflink.org.au)
- CareSearch website: [www.caresearch.com.au](http://www.caresearch.com.au)
- Kids Helpline: [www.kidshelp.com.au](http://www.kidshelp.com.au) ☎ 1800 551 800
- Cancer Council WA: [www.cancerwa.asn.au](http://www.cancerwa.asn.au) ☎ 13 11 20
- World Hospice and Palliative Care Day: [www.worldday.org](http://www.worldday.org)