

Celebrating Life and all its colours

The Vivian Bullwinkel Chair
of Palliative Care Nursing, Monash University,
and Clinical Lead End of Life Care, Eastern Health



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FOUNDATION

“If all life moves inevitably towards its end, then we must, during our own, colour it with our colours of love and hope.”

Marc Chagall, Artist (born July 7 1887, died March 28 1985)

Throughout life we plan for and celebrate joyous milestones – our wedding; the birth of our children; the purchase of our first home; our career; even our first car!

But one of the most critical life milestones we will all face and which can turn life’s vibrant colours into a dark shade, we do not plan well for.

While our health care system does all it can to prolong life through medical and medicinal advances, currently there is little information, support, or advocacy as to the importance of recognising, planning, managing and understanding the final phase of our life.

***“If you knew you had 12 months to live,
if you knew you had a terminal condition,
what would you do?***

What would you expect the health care system to do for you?”

Margaret Bird, Director, Palliative Care, Eastern Health

Eastern Health, in partnership with Monash University seeks to re-establish the Vivian Bullwinkel Chair of Palliative Care Nursing and Clinical Lead End of Life Care.

Based at Wantirna Health, the appointment will be for an initial period of three years and will function across all of Eastern Health.

Named in honour of World War II heroine Sister Vivian Bullwinkel, the Chair will oversee a research and education program into palliative and clinical end of life care with the aim of improving services for the dying, their families and carers.

The Chair will address the need to provide optimum palliative care services to patients, their loved ones and the broader community.

And will explore ways the medical profession can work with families and carers to determine what is important for the patient and what treatment options would be appropriate at the time.

**The Chair will explore models of care,
educate health care providers and
engage consumers in a conversation on end of life care.**

According to the Victorian Department of Health demand for palliative care is increasing at nearly 5% per annum.

Eastern Health is well placed to take the lead in palliative and end of life care, especially as its Palliative Care Service is one of the busiest in Victoria. Our catchment area has a high level of elderly patients who are frail and/or have dementia and furthermore has the fastest growing cohort of over 70 year olds in Melbourne.

Establishing the Vivian Bullwinkel Chair will confirm Eastern Health's position as a leader, and will set a visionary, strategic and inspirational path in addressing the increasing and changing needs of palliative care in Victoria.

While palliative and end of life care can be a difficult conversation, the Vivian Bullwinkel Chair will celebrate life by looking at ways our healthcare system can deliver the very best end of life care. **To establish this visionary position Eastern Health must raise \$360,000.**

Already, a growing philanthropic community of individuals, businesses and organisations have helped raise \$180,000 to date. This includes the wonderful support from the Box Hill Returned Services League who kick-started the Appeal with a generous pledge of \$50,000.

Please join this growing community and pledge your support to the Vivian Bullwinkel Chair Appeal – go to www.easternhealthfoundation.org.au/event/vivianbullwinkel or call Eastern Health Foundation on 03 9895 4608 today.

If you would like to learn more, or would like to go on a tour of our palliative care service at Wantirna Health, please contact Eastern Health Foundation on 03 9895 4608 or email fundraising@easternhealth.org.au

**Lieutenant-Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel AO, MBE, ARRC, ED, FNM
(18 December 1915 – 3 July 2000)**

An Australian Army nurse during World War II, Vivian Bullwinkel was the sole survivor of the Bangka Island Massacre, when the Japanese killed 21 of her fellow nurses on Radji Beach, Bangka Island (Indonesia) on 16 February 1942.

Vivian was a prisoner of war for three years during which she tended to her fellow inmates. Post-war Vivian was the Director of Nursing at Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital and President of the Royal College of Nursing Australia where she was a key player in the struggle to have nursing education moved to universities.

Her legacy is one of a skilled and innovative nurse; a distinguished member of Australia's military service; a courageous and inspiring leader of people; a woman performing remarkable deeds during and after the war for the frail, the aged, the disadvantaged and the forgotten.