

PallCare Packages

***A small body of determined spirits fired
by an unquenchable faith in their
mission can alter the course of
history....***

Mohandas Gandhi

“ We didn’t know we had a choice. We didn’t know what questions to ask. We didn’t know what would come next – how many good days, how many bad ones. What to do on the bad days. “

Geoff and Linda



“the nurses made a DoCS referral when Linda became ill. It shocked us. We lost control then. Everyone wanted buy in, and everyone wanted to tell us what to do. They wanted to tell us how Linda would die and when.

We wanted control back. We wanted our lives back. Even though ringing Docs was a really bad thing, it did force us to make some important decisions.

We called the case manager back – she hadn't been involved for a while as we were coping. She organised everyone, and had a meeting with the nurses, home care, the GP and DoCS.....

We sorted it out, got equipment and services and everything is out in the open now. We have started doing some grief counselling with the children.....

We are going to do things different now and ask the doctors plainly what to expect. We need to plan, we need to get everything in order so we can continue to live.....”

Geoff....caring for his wife with metastatic breast cancer and 5 children

“It is absolutely wonderful to know that there is someone there for us who knows what questions we may need to ask.

You don’t know what to ask if you have never experienced it before”.

Kerry : caring for her 50yr old father dying of an metastastic abdominal mass and her 49 yr old mother with disabilities

“I didn’t buy glasses because what was the point? I would be dead soon anyway, or so the doctor said.....

The case manager ordered glasses and paid for them. She said I had more living to do, and anyway being able to read or knit again could help me feel better.

It feels wonderful.....I didn’t think it mattered”.

Judith ... living with stomach cancer

“What we loved was talking about what it would be like when Mum died. We planned memory boxes, scrap booking, even made a DVD with pictures and her favourite music”.

“We are now planting a tree in her special place in the garden – she told us where to put it too. That is where we will be able to talk to her when she is gone. We sit there now and can feel her presence”.

“I hate having this cancer. It is robbing me of my life with my children. I have to get the most time I can. It has to be good...the time I have left”.

“I’m OK about dying”.

“I just don’t want it to happen”.

Linda

“Please don’t stop the program. We didn’t know any of this. The nurses came once or twice a week, they were great – but different. They didn’t talk about the little things that troubled us, or prepared us for what dying may look like”.

“We loved being able to talk about Mum’s death...it has taken some of the mystery away”.

Sue : Tumut

“We didn’t know what the doctors meant when they said that they could continue to treat Dad. We thought that it meant that each time he got sick they would treat him and he would get better. His cancer was still in the pelvis area. It hadn’t spread yet – or so we thought”.

“No one told us that Dad could die from this”.

Robyn and Sandy – West Wyalong

“When the palliative care social worker came we didn’t know why we needed them”.

“Dad died 1 week later”.

“He may have wanted to know earlier”.

Andrew

“The social worker - case manager, talked to Dad about how he was feeling and what he thought was happening”.

“Dad said he was dying, but he didn’t want us to know”.

“We had a family conference and talked it through”.

“Now we were all on the same page”.

Michelle : 26yr old daughter. Dad died of metastatic oesophageal gastric cancer

“Dad died at home, Mum was at his feet, and my brother and I were on the lounge”.

“We knew he had died. The room changed. The sound that was his breathing stopped”.

“The room was somewhat peaceful, and he looked out of pain and at peace. We sat with him for some hours before we rang the funeral director. We knew what to do and what to expect.”

Michelle

“If I had know about this project earlier and that we qualified for this help we would have had less stress in the family. We weren’t sure what to expect in regards to ... treatment and equipment.

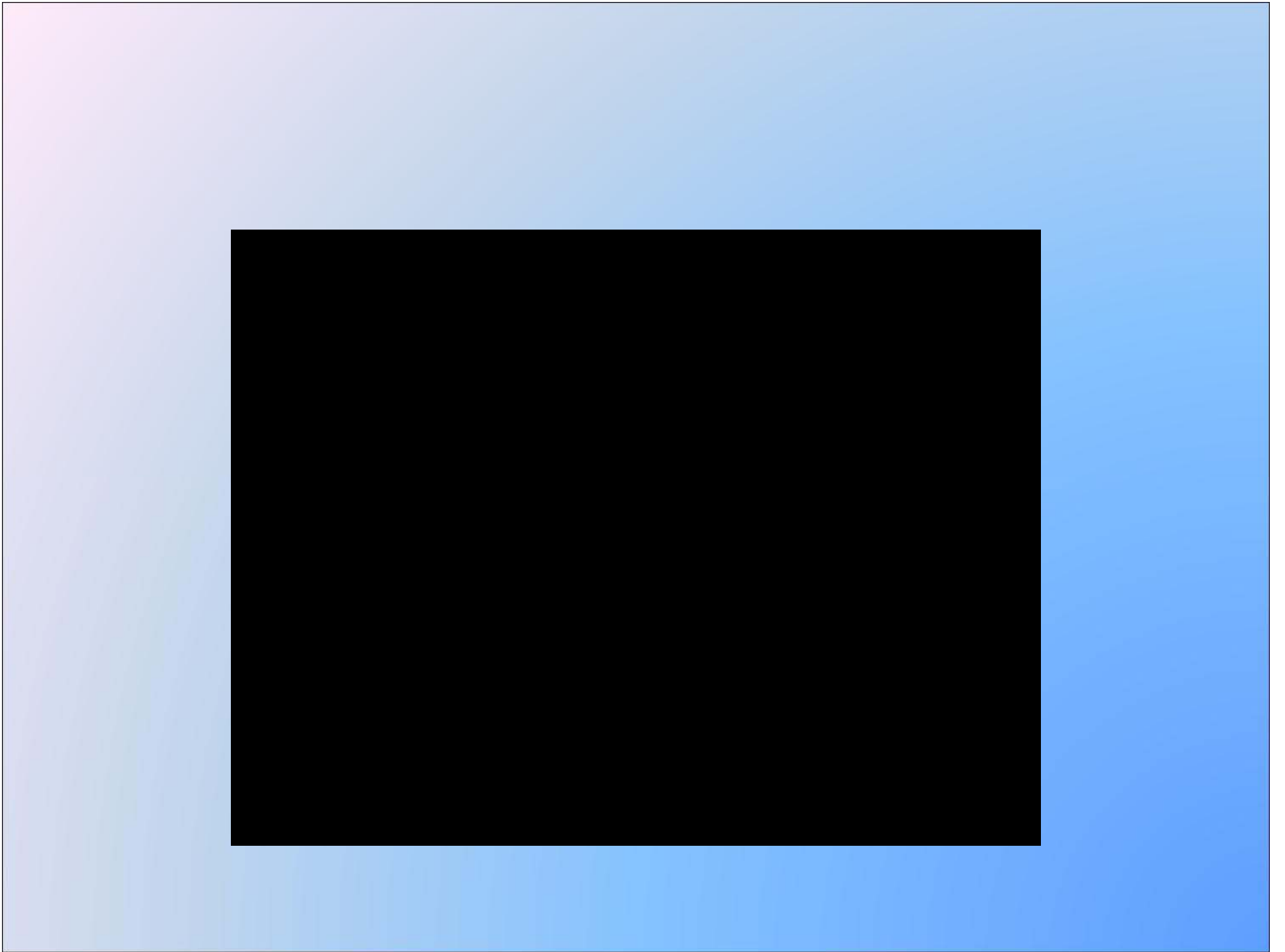
“We just wanted to give him the best care”

Maree – caring for her husband with metastatic prostate and bladder cancer

“When they (SW) came Dad was slipping away, and not interested in talking much. We could have done so much more now I realise. When the SW came there was so little time to do the proper planning”.

“We wanted to do it all right and involve Dad in the decisions. He couldn’t though. It was so quick in the end”.

Carol : Wantabadgerie





On the road to Talimba...

“When Dad died, we kept him at home till morning. Then we rang the SW. She organised the funeral director to come. The GP had been told, and everything was OK”.

“He had a beautiful death at home....

I went to make him a cuppa – he said he would have one later, but when I went in with it he had died”.

“What didn’t help? When you (SW) came. It took us 3 days to get over being sad. We had to confront that this pain and immobility was not just a temporary thing”.

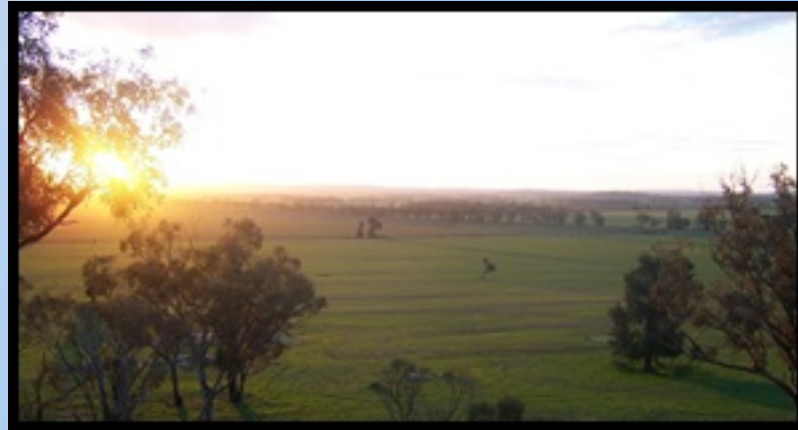
“When you need palliative care – well you are dying then aren’t you....”.

“We came to enjoy the visits though. It gave us peace”.

“What did help?Things that enabled living. I believe I will may be around for many years yet, but I’m not sure. I have too much to do.... I don’t put things off now. I have become a bit of a risk taker”.

“I wouldn’t have had the choice to do that if we hadn’t had those conversations”.

*“I may not have years
.....but I am living as if I do”.*



Sue and Anne

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PallCare Packages

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