



PalliativeCare

TASMANIA

ANMF

Australian
Nursing &
Midwifery
Federation
Tasmania



ANMF Diversity Scholarship 2021 Winner Profile : Jon Delanie

The ANMF has partnered with Palliative Care Tasmania to deliver educational scholarships to support those nurses with a passion for palliative care.

Jon Delaine was one of the four lucky winners. He sat down with Infusion editor Olivia Hicks and explains why he is so passionate about the sector.

Working in community nursing was a natural progression for 38-year-old Jon DeLaine.

Now living on the North West coast of Tasmania, he's determination to upskill and help people in palliative care was evident from an early age.

"I knew I wanted to help people in their time of need."

Trained as a registered nurse, he now works in the specialist palliative care system. His previous employment includes the Gibson Unit and the Whittle Ward at the Repatriation Centre in Hobart.

Jon says it's not just older people who he sees. There are a small group of younger people who are facing death and he is passionate about helping those younger adults and the LGBTQIA+ groups feel safe and supported.

"Young adults don't receive the support when it comes to palliative care. I like being able to stay with the patient and play an active role in their end-of-life care journey."

"It's an amazing opportunity to be able to provide the critical care, but also creative needs to the person, because it is ultimately up to them."

His pet dog Pumba also provides some extra support and cuddles when required.

"Pumba loves the cuddles, and the patients love him being around. Dogs are great at giving that therapeutic response and he isn't shy at handing it out!"

Jon says death and dying is important as it's a dignified and personal choice.

"Sometimes you see people in the last week of their life. They may have spent years with an oncology doctor and team, and now they arrive here and it's time for them to tell us what they want."

However, he says it's not just about that final week.

"It could be about managing their pain, their poor sleep. Our team includes a pharmacist and physio - we are a multi-dispansary team."

His service area includes Queenstown, King Island, Burnie to Sassafra. It's a large area but he says that doesn't faze him.

"I want to remain in the north west because there a huge need here for palliative care support. There is only one hospital in the region."

He encourages anyone wanting to enter this sector, as it's a really rewarding role.

"The skills and experience you gain from being in palliative care are enriching, but we need more diversity to represent the community we service. I would love to see more young nurses join the sector."

"Maintaining a sense of human dignity is central to the quality of life of these people at a time when they are nearly at the end of their lives."

"Even in the darkest of times it's nice to have someone to make you laugh when you really need to laugh and to be sad when you need to feel sad," Jon said.