

Thursday, 28 September 2017

Feature film to highlight World Hospice and Palliative Care Day

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District's (ISLHD) Palliative Care Service invites health care providers, carers and community members to a screening of *Hippocratic* - a feature-length film for World Hospice and Palliative Care Day.

Hippocratic is set in an Indian hospice and features Dr Rajagopal, who, inspired by Gandhi, aims to provide better access to compassionate care for people dying in India.

ISLHD Director Palliative Care Service, Dr Greg Barclay said compassionate symptom management is the responsibility of all doctors, and is fundamental in the Hippocratic oath.

"Palliative care is dealing with symptoms, rather than disease, as people approach the end of their life. Those symptoms might be physical pain or nausea, but are impacted significantly by distress from social, emotional or spiritual issues. These must be attended to as well," Dr Barclay said.

"In Australia we can be grateful for the range of effective medications and support we have available. What we take from this film is just how effective compassion is in terms of supporting people. Sometimes there are things that are more important than active treatment," he said.

The Palliative Care Service is hosting a free screening of the documentary at Wollongong Hospital, and Dr Barclay will introduce the film.

"Dr Rajagopal reminds us that health care providers are a tiny proportion of people who can have a huge impact on the way people approach their dying," Dr Barclay said.

Event details

What: *Hippocratic* documentary screening
When: 6pm – 8pm, Wednesday 11 October
Where: Wollongong Hospital – Auditorium – Level 8
Who: Free event open to patients, family members, carers, other interested community members and staff

Light refreshments will be provided from 6pm, with the 90-minute screening commencing at 6.30pm. For further information contact ISLHD Palliative Care Clinical Service Manager, Kay Cope via phone: 0421 097 810 or kay.cope@health.nsw.gov.au

For additional information on *Hippocratic* visit: <http://hippocraticfilm.com>