

I don't need a volunteer, but may just require assistance now and again – is this acceptable?

Yes, a volunteer can be found at very short notice at any time. However, if you feel there may be several occasions when you need help, it is often easier to have one volunteer "on call" in the background, rather than have an unfamiliar face each time.

What are the main reasons for offering a volunteer service?

- To help patients and family maintain where possible a normal routine and quality of life.
- To allow patients to remain at home, maintain independence and retain links with the community.
- To allow people to receive help without having to constantly ask and also justify their need to friends and neighbours.
- To supplement support already given by friends, neighbours and other family members.
- To support those with no family or close friends living in the area or whose family is unavailable due to work or other commitments.

*Atawhaitia, Manaakitia Mō
Ake Tonu ~ To Care Always*

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Family Support Volunteer Services

Hospice affirms life ~ living every moment



How we can help



Who are the volunteers?

A selected group of men and women who have undergone hospice volunteer training. Some have a background in health/social services, others have personal experience of caring for people who have had a major illness. The volunteers are an important part of the Hospice team of carers and work closely with the head medical officer, nurses and other hospice staff. Volunteers receive regular support and supervision.

Where are family support volunteers available?

All across the region, including Golden Bay, Motueka/Mapua, Wakefield & of course Nelson/Richmond.

What do volunteers do?

They offer practical, one on one support that is complementary to our health professionals (usually one or two volunteers per family).

Examples:

- Relieve the care-giver for short spells
- Driving/transport for the patient or for other family members
- Shopping and messages
- Collect and return library books
- Baking, cooking help with meals
- Occasional child minding
- Pet exercising
- Companionship and lots of listening

Other volunteers may also be available to do:

- Gardening and odd jobs
- Install ramps
- Home hairdressing
- Bereavement follow-up
- Mindfulness Meditation facilitation
- Relaxation massage

Some volunteer services may not be available in rural areas

Is there anything volunteers don't do?

Yes - nursing, counselling and giving advice do not fall within the remit of volunteers.

Who may use the volunteer service?

Any patient (and their family) who is currently registered with the hospice service.

Do patients pay for volunteer services?

No, the service is free of charge.

Is there an obligation to accept a volunteer as part of the service?

No, accepting volunteer help is entirely up to you and your family. If you DO decide to accept help, you might expect your volunteer to be available once or twice a week for 2-4 hours.