



Peter

“Hospice isn’t just for the end—it’s for living well, even when things are tough.”



Nelson Tasman
Hospice

AUTUMN 2025

When Peter first heard the word “hospice,” it brought back painful memories. Years ago, his partner, Tony, was cared for at hospice in Blenheim before passing away from bowel cancer only a few weeks after being diagnosed. “It was my first experience with hospice,” Peter recalls. “Back then, I thought it was just a place for people at the very end of their lives.”

Peter shared his story.

When Peter himself needed hospice care, he wasn't sure what to expect. Living with a fractured hip and other health challenges, Peter found himself overwhelmed. That's when the team at Nelson Tasman Hospice stepped in, transforming his perception of what hospice care truly means.

Peter was admitted to the service in September last year and hospice have helped coordinate his treatment since then, supporting Peter at home and working together with his GP, and the team at Nelson Hospital.

Upon coming home after a week-long radiation therapy in Christchurch in December, the hospice team provided a seamless transition to a short stay at the Specialist Palliative Care Unit (SPCU) at the Hospice Hub in Suffolk Road over Christmas & New Years. Nurses and doctors managed his pain, adjusted his medications, and checked in regularly to ensure he was comfortable and supported.

"I couldn't have managed without them," Peter admits. "The home visits, the equipment they provided—like the hospital bed I now have—and even just having someone to talk to, it all makes such a difference."

The hospice staff's compassion struck Peter deeply. He appreciated the time they took to sit with him, not just to discuss medical issues but to share stories and connect on a personal level. "It's not like being in a hospital, where the nurses are great, but they are so busy they only have a few minutes to spare," Peter says. "At the hospice, they treat you like a person, not just a patient."

Even small gestures left lasting impressions, like the delicious meals he enjoyed during his stay in the hospice's inpatient unit. "The care and thought they put into everything made me feel human again."

Once the team at hospice had made sure Peter, and his partner Bruce, were ready, Peter was able to go home again and the team at hospice made sure this transition was again seamless.

Peter recalls a time recently when he wasn't sure whether to reach out to the hospice for help. He'd been struggling with pain in his leg, and he and Bruce were unsure if it warranted a call. Thankfully, they decided to ring hospice and community nurse Michelle, reassured them that they'd made the right decision.

"She said, 'You absolutely did the right thing by calling,'" Peter remembers. "That reassurance made all the difference. I realised that hospice is there for you, no matter the time or situation."

Hospice care has given Peter the ability to focus on the things that bring him joy, like tending to his garden and spending time with loved ones. "There's no place like home," he says. "And thanks to the hospice, I can stay here and enjoy the things that matter most."

But Peter also knows the challenges the hospice faces. Each year, Nelson Tasman Hospice faces a \$4 million funding shortfall to ensure their services remain free for patients like Peter. The hospice cares for around 210 people each month, providing not

just medical care but also emotional and practical support for patients and their families.

"They always go above and beyond," Peter says. "Without their care, I don't know where I'd be. Hospice isn't just for the end—it's for living well, even when things are tough."

Peter wants others to know that hospice is not something to fear. "Don't be scared of hospice," Peter says. "It's not what you think it is. It's a place of kindness and hope. And one day, you or someone you love might need it."

Your donation ensures that Nelson Tasman Hospice can continue to provide care, comfort, and dignity to people like Peter and their families.

Please give generously today. With your support, we can ensure that everyone in our community continues to have access to this essential service, whenever they need it.

If you feel comfortable sharing your story, we would love to hear it. Whether you are currently on our service, have lost a loved one on our service in the past, are a volunteer or a supporter – sharing your story is powerful and helps Hospice in a variety of ways. If you would be interested in knowing more or would like to share your story, we would love to hear from you.



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Pub Charity Funds Palliative Care Education for the Community

Funding from grants is vital to Nelson Tasman Hospice. This month we are shining a spotlight on Pub Charity who have regularly supported our education in the community.

Pub Charity has been helping to fund palliative care in Nelson Tasman since 2007, gifting grants to Nelson Tasman Hospice over these 18 years. This year, we have once again received support towards our extensive programme of palliative care education which empowers caregivers, as well as the wider health care community, to ensure the best possible palliative care meets the growing need in our community.

Our education sessions enhance the skills and confidence of staff, whānau and caregivers providing care for those with a life limiting illness.

This includes workshops in our education room, one to one and team training in Nelson Hospital and with

District Nurses, aged residential care facilities, NMIT nursing students and to caregivers who are looking after their loved ones at home. Included within this offering are Hospice NZ programmes that have been developed to ensure nationwide consistency in palliative care.

In 2024 we offered 92 workshops which educated 1055 participants. However, the true number of people that benefit from these workshops, and the in-reach work that we do, is much larger as education enables and empowers the community to provide the best possible care on an ongoing basis.

We very much appreciate the Pub Charity's continuing support of Nelson Tasman Hospice Trust, which has been integral to enabling us to continue to be sustainable and provide these free services throughout Nelson Tasman.



**Pub
Charity**
Limited

Pub Charity is committed to returning funds back into the communities where they were raised. A thank you to the local venues, teams and customers, who contributed to this gift; Armadillo's Bar, Restaurant and Functions Centre, Brightwater Bar & Bistro, Collingwood Tavern, Post Office Hotel Motueka, Rattle & Hum, Star and Garter Tavern and Wakefield Hotel.

Hato Hone St John & Nelson Tasman Hospice Collaborate for the Community

In the context of our aging population with growing palliative care need, ambulance services have an increasingly important role in the delivery of palliative care. From 2016-2022 there has been a >700% rise in the palliative care caseload for Hato Hone St John nationally. Research shows that ambulance clinicians want further education and training in palliative and end-of-life care. In 2022 a project group was formed between Hato Hone St John and Nelson Tasman Hospice to strengthen the partnership between our two services, aiming to:

- Complement existing processes to improve patient access to palliative care and support in the home.
- Provide urgent palliative-care support when the patient's usual palliative-care provider cannot respond.
- Avoid non-beneficial emergency department visits for palliative care patients.
- Improve education and training, enabling ambulance clinicians to become confident in supporting palliative-care patients and their whānau.

The first phase of this project has been the development of an Adult Palliative Care Ambulance Plan (APCAP). The APCAP documents individualised palliative care treatment, end-of-life decisions, patient preferences, and guidance on the use of APOs (Anticipatory Prescribed Orders) for symptom control.

A completed APCAP will be registered with Hato Hone St John Ambulance and uploaded, enabling a real-time automated alert to be provided to responding ambulance clinicians that an APCAP is in place. The APCAP will reflect, but does not replace, the patient's individual health care decisions documented in their Advance Care Plan (ACP) and/or Advance Directive (AD). Completion of an APCAP should be considered for any palliative patient being prescribed APOs. The APCAP requires Medical/Nurse Practitioner sign off but can be completed by any relevant clinician with the involvement of the patient and whānau.



Barney Rennie, Critical Care Paramedic, St John New Zealand | Hato Hone Aotearoa and Dr Jodie Battley, Palliative Medicine Consultant & Medical Director, Nelson Tasman Hospice

Training sessions for all ambulance staff have been delivered throughout September. The APCAP is now available for use for all relevant palliative care patients across Nelson and Tasman, including those under the District Nursing primary palliative care service. A fillable PDF is available on Health Pathways under the Palliative Care Section and on the Nelson Tasman Hospice website. Colleagues from Te Whatu Ora Nelson Marlborough, District Nursing, and General Practice have had input into the development of the APCAP.

"Strengthening partnerships between health providers can only improve outcomes for patients and their whānau with palliative care needs." Nelson Tasman Hospice Medical Director Dr Jodie Battley says. "The APCAP further assists palliative care patients to receive care that aligns with their wishes and preferences."

The next phase of the project will be focused on education and training for the ambulance service staff in specific palliative care fundamentals and internships for interested Hato Hone St John staff at Nelson Tasman Hospice.

The 2025 NBS Dancing for a Cause Contestants

A big thank you to this years contestants, who are volunteering their time and energy in support of the community. Thank you also to all the businesses and individuals that are supporting the contestants along the way. Come along in May to see them on the dance floor!



Anna Hay



Rhys Black



Jayde Howe



Blair Cameron



Lauretta Haskell



Ed Shuttleworth



Steph Collett



Campbell Rollo



Wendy Blincoe



Ritchie Norriss



Tickets selling fast!

Don't miss out!

A biannual competition where you can watch 10 well known locals get out of their comfort zones and onto the dance floor to raise funds for Nelson Tasman Hospice.

Tickets starting from just \$40!

To purchase tickets visit -

www.eventfinda.co.nz/2025/nbs-dancing-for-cause2/nelson

Or scan here



Keep updated with Dancing for a Cause and the contestants - www.dancingforacause.co.nz



- @dancingforacausenelson



- @nbsdancingforacausenelson



Wish List

By donating for specific items you have a tangible sense of the impact of your gift; whether it be equipment, which is loaned free of charge to families in their homes or placed in our SPCU, or stationery to support our daily business, each item you donate helps make a difference to our patients every day.

- \$190 each Syringe Driver Lock Boxes - supports patient pain relief in their home **x6 required**
- \$250 Timber for wheelchair ramps in patients' homes - ongoing cost
- \$320 Dedicated water bowl for spiritual cleansing - significant for Māori and other spiritual belief systems - **created by local carver**
- \$430 per box of Copy paper for daily business support - ongoing cost
- \$700 per box NZ Post 500 pre-paid envelopes - ongoing cost
- \$3800 Transport Bed for the community
- \$4685 Automorpho Plus air mattress

Gift Care: \$1,200 Day of Care - one off
Ensure patients can be cared for at home or in our Specialist Palliative Care Unit, with the specialist support of hospice care.

You can also make a one-off or regular gift to support hospice services in Nelson Tasman.

If you would like to make a positive impact in your community by donating for an item on our Wish List, please contact Rachel Lake on 027 222 1344 or rachel.lake@nelsonhospice.org.nz.

Thank you to the amazing recent supporters of our Wish List for being part of our compassionate community.

Claim tax credits for donations

Did you know you can claim back one third of any money over \$5 you donate to a New Zealand charity?

For example if you donate \$100, you can claim back \$33.33.

This is called a Donation Tax Credit and IRD have made it easier to claim them. You can upload your receipts online by logging onto the 'myIR' platform on the IRD website. Receipts can be uploaded throughout the year or all at once at the end of the financial year on March 31st.

At the end of the tax year, IRD will calculate how much you are owed and you will receive the credit in your account. It's that easy!

We would love if you would continue the cycle of giving by donating your tax credit back to Nelson Tasman Hospice. Once you've received the credit, simply donate it back to us and make your gift go even further!