

A Patron for Palliative Care

LAST week was National Palliative Care Week, and the Banksia Palliative Care Service announced their first formal female patron.

Krista Vendy, a passionate supporter of Community Palliative Care and of Banksia's fundraising events, comes from a family of charitable supporters.

Her father David was Mayor of Ballarat and is known for his support of hospices and of his work concerning Historical Cities of the World.

Her mother Christal has actively assisted in causes such as homeless and disadvantaged youth, while Krista's brother Simon is a paramedic with a palliative care background.

Banksia is delighted that Krista has chosen the concept of community palliative care as her special charity to support and promote.

Krista was a member of the cast of *Neighbours* and has had guest roles on TV, film and on several radio programs.

She has been interviewed throughout the UK and Australia, including on *Rove*, *Burke's Backyard*, *Good Morning Australia*, *Live and Kicking* and *The Big Breakfast*.

Krista's particular interest is to create awareness that community palliative care is not just for elderly people, and that approximately 20 per cent of clients are under 60 years of age.

She is very passionate that clients should have the choice to live at home and receive the best care and support to maximise their quality of life.

Banksia provides specialised nursing, social work, complimentary therapies of art, music and massage, has 50 volunteers, bereavement services and a well respected learning centre, catering for allied health, aged care, volunteers and carers within Australia and overseas.

Each year the staff and volunteers of Banksia Palliative Care Service, provide specialised health care and practical support to over 500 children and adults, who are living with a progressive terminal illness and also for their carers and families, to enable the child or adult to live at home.

The services provided by Banksia directly are done so free of charge. The cost of community home based palliative care is estimated to be one fifth of the cost of hospital based palliative care.



Krista Vendy