

## BANKSIA PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICE LINKS WITH JAPAN & HAWAII

Banksia has provided services within the local government areas of Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea for 19 years.

The service has received a prestigious Grant from the Australia Japan Foundation (AJF), which is part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFA). The Grant of \$36,168 was awarded for "Fostering Australian Palliative Care Partnerships in Japan".

The grant has two phases:

1. Conducting education, training and presentations at venues in Kobe, Nara, Nagoya and Osaka in partnership with the Japanese Educational Clinical Oncology Society (JECOS) from Osaka.
2. For Banksia staff to gain cultural experiences of providing palliative care to Japanese families with Pallium, its sister organisation in Tokyo.

Since 2004, utilising non-care funding sources, Banksia has provided palliative care education and training courses in Japan and at their premises, to Japanese health professionals. The most recent visit took place in October & November 2010.

Banksia has also established a tri-nation collaborative with Pallium in Tokyo, Japan and Hawaii Hospice, in the USA. The group aims to share expertise, learn from each other and collaborate in shared areas of research.

The Japanese palliative care movement is different from Australia as it works around different cultural attitudes, including more stoicism regarding pain. Palliative care is often only provided in terminal care and predominantly focussed on cancer patients only.

Banksia has always worked within a multicultural framework in its own service area, which gave them an early insight into working within a different cultural framework in Japan. They are proud to have a strong bond with Japanese health organisations seeking to extend palliative care within their region. For an Australian community palliative care service to have gained trust, respect and recognition in Japan is a huge achievement, resulting in the award of the prestigious DFA grant via the Australia Japan Foundation.

In late October this year, Banksia moved its service headquarters to cope with its increasing workload locally and internationally. The new building is a shopfront and beacon for its palliative care work in the region, coordinating services to over 500 patients and families, as well as running training workshops for volunteers and other groups, including the increasing number of overseas visitors. Their new address is 477 Lower Heidelberg Road, Heidelberg.

