



St Vincent's

*Continuing the Mission of
the Sisters of Charity*

***Caritas Christi
Palliative Care***

STV

Welcome to Caritas Christi

Caritas Christi provides palliative care and aged care services from two sites. There are palliative care beds located at Caritas Christi Kew plus a community day care centre for the elderly, a day hospice and support services. Eastern Palliative Care, the home palliative care service, is also based at Kew.

At the Fitzroy Campus there are palliative care beds situated on the 6th Floor of the In-patient Services Building of St. Vincent's Hospital.

What is palliative care?

Palliative care is the care of people with a life-threatening disease that cannot be cured. The main aims of palliative care are control of pain and other symptoms along with attention to the patient's psychological, emotional and spiritual concerns.

Care may involve medical, nursing and allied health (e.g. physiotherapy, occupational therapy, nutrition) services. Palliative care is provided in hospitals; hospices such as Caritas Christi; and in the home. Patients can choose the location where they are most comfortable and that is most appropriate to their needs.

What is a hospice?

A hospice is a facility that provides palliative care. Sometimes patients require palliative care to help them with the symptoms of their condition. At other times a patient may have respite care – this gives their carers a rest.

Limited parking is available in Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy in the car park directly under the main hospital building or in the multi-storey car park. The Museum car park in Nicholson Street is a short walk away. Council parking officers are vigilant, so please note restrictions on the street parking spaces.

Visiting hours

Visitors are welcome 11:00am - 8:00pm each day. Families may visit at any time by arrangement with staff.

Caritas Christi – Kew Campus

104 Studley Park Road
Kew Victoria 3101
Tel: **03 9853 2344**
Fax: **03 9853 1509**

Caritas Christi – Fitzroy Campus

6th Floor, In-patient Services Building
St. Vincent's Hospital Melbourne
Princes Street
Fitzroy Victoria 3065
Tel: **03 9288 4697**
Fax: **03 9288 4696**

Mission

*Our health service is based on and driven by our quest for:
Compassion – Justice – Human Dignity – Excellence – Unity*

Information for patients

Admissions

Admissions are arranged through the Admission Co-ordinator on telephone **03 9853 2344**.

What to bring

We recommend that you bring:

- Comfortable day clothing
- Nightwear and dressing gown
- Underwear, socks and slippers
- Toiletries
- Any other personal items you may need

Laundry facilities

We encourage families to take washing home for laundering. Please ask your nurse for a laundry bag.

Valuables

To ensure the safety of your personal belongings, we recommend that you do not keep money or valuables in your bed-side area. If valuables are essential, your nurse can secure them in Caritas Christi's safe.

Pastoral Care

Our team of pastoral care practitioners can help by listening and supporting you. A visit by a hospital chaplain representing any of the major religious groups can be organised. Mass and ecumenical services are held regularly and everyone is welcome.

Electrical equipment

For your safety, Caritas Christi's electrician must check all personal electrical equipment (hair dryers, radios etc.) before use. Please ask your nurse to arrange this.

Hairdresser

A hairdresser is available so please talk to your nurse to arrange an appointment.

Telephones and Television

Kew

Each room has a convenient, bed-side TV. Mobile phones are permitted at the Kew campus.

Fitzroy

At the Fitzroy campus, the telephones and TVs operate on a pre-paid system. Patients can have a direct dial-in telephone number. Patients may also choose to enjoy free-to-air TV stations, movie channels and a selection of pay TV stations. Families are encouraged to help patients set up their account on admission.

Education

As Caritas Christi is a teaching facility, students of many health disciplines visit us. All students and staff have committed to maintaining your privacy. You are entitled to decline a student visit, at any time. Please talk to your doctor, nurse or the Caritas Christi patient representative if you have any questions or concerns.

Volunteers

Volunteers are valued members of the Caritas Christi team and complement the care of staff. Volunteers provide patients, family and friends with practical assistance as well as support and understanding. Individuals who are interested in volunteering can contact the Co-ordinator of Volunteers for further information on **03 9853 2344**.

Outings

You are encouraged to attend outings with your family or friends, or to visit your home for a few hours or overnight if you feel well enough. To ensure that your medications are ready, please talk to your nurse well before the outing.

Snack facilities

A fridge and microwave are available if family and friends want to bring in special or favourite foods. A fully equipped kitchen is available for use by family and friends at Kew. At Fitzroy, meals and snacks are available at various outlets in and near the hospital. Tea and coffee are available for visitors.

Transport

Kew

Buses travel directly past Caritas Christ Kew and trams can be caught from the nearby Kew junction. Parking is available in and around Caritas Christi.

Fitzroy

Buses and trams travel regularly along from Nicholson Street and Victoria Parade. Parliament train station is a five minute walk from the campus.