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Volunteers keep hospice ticking over

Alison Dowdle | 4th March 2009



Brian Luttrell

Alison Dowdle

BRIAN Luttrell is a handy man.

But he doesn't just fix lights, air conditioners, wheelchairs and anything that's thrown at him.

Mr Luttrell also fixes people's last visions on the earth, filling them with the peace of a soundly working environment.

He is one of approximately 100 volunteers contributing to the Toowoomba Hospice, a private health care facility for individuals and families experiencing a terminal illness.

"Most of the volunteers are retired; it's amazing that someone who could be sitting around knitting is helping out," said Mr Luttrell, a retired engineer himself.

Even though most of the volunteers in these groups don't have direct contact with the patients, their backstage contributions are just as important to the respectful ambience of the place.

After volunteering at the hospice every Tuesday for just over two years, Mr Luttrell contributes mostly to preventative maintenance - looking after things before they break.

"We have to keep the place ticking away," he said.

Mr Luttrell is modest about his own achievements in the hospice, but is enthusiastic about promoting the other volunteers.

"They are working behind the scenes in all aspects of the hospice including cooking, housekeeping, administration, reception and pastoral care."

"What I like most about my job? Knowing that you're contributing to the patient's peaceful existence, so they can pass away with dignity."

If you're interested in volunteering or donating to the Toowoomba Hospice Association Incorporated, contact 4659 8500 or visit www.tmbahospice.auzy.net.



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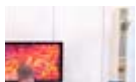
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