

- PROMOTING QUALITY OF LIFE
- DIGNITY IN DEATH
- SUPPORT IN BEREAVEMENT



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MEDIA RELEASE

NEW IN-PATIENT UNIT OF CENTURION HOSPICE REMINDS OF A FIVE STAR HOTEL

CENTURION - "I can easily spend the last days of my life in one of these rooms. It is like a five-star hotel. One can die in peace and comfort here."

These were the words of singer, chef and actor, Willie Strauss, after he has been taken on a tour through the newly refurbished In-Patient Unit (IPU) of Centurion Hospice earlier today.

He was not the only one who was gobsmacked by these rooms, that each has a unique look and feel. "It is so warm and cosy. I can use two words to describe the IPU; compassion and warmth," said Marelize Horn, a member of the group *Grafsteensangers*, who are also the ambassadors of Centurion Hospice.

Around 100 members of the public, nurses and doctors from the Centurion precinct attended the open day that gave people the opportunity to view the rooms.

The IPU can accommodate fourteen patients and "we are ready to welcome our first patients," said Annette Reed, the general manager of Centurion Hospice. "The idea was to create a haven for those patients who live with life-limiting illnesses. A hospital room is usually cold and sterile – we brought colour into the rooms. "

Every room, every ward (with five beds) tells a story of those who have passed but will live on in the memory of their loved ones.

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Board of Governors: Chairman G. Lubisi, Vice Chair D. Ntombela, Secretary L. Pretorius, Treasurer M. Byrne, E Thirion, CLr Ina Strijdom (ex officio)

● www.centurionhospice.com ● facebook: Centurion Hospice

Centurion Hospice's IPU is unique in many ways as we gave members of the public the opportunity to decorate a room and dedicate it to a loved one. For many family members the process of furnishing and decorating a room, aid with the bereavement process.

Sonja Smith from the Sonja Smith Funeral Group decorated and named the last room in the hallway as it is the departure room.

Smith said: "I am going to call the room the care, compassion and dignity room. That is the room were people wait at the last station, for the last train to depart."

She spent hours decorating to room and the result is a sea of green peace. "There are comfortable couches and chairs for family members, and the patient can even keep his or her pet in the room," said Sonja.

Centurion Hospice IPU closed in 2017 due to financial constraint, but also because of the narrow admission requirements Centurion Hospice set for taking in patients. "We have now expanded the definition of what a IPU patient is and we now include patients with life-limiting and life-threatening illnesses. This will include pre-terminal and aged patients who are totally unable to care for themselves AND who are more than 50% bedridden," said Reed.

We urge the community to become a volunteer; to read to our patients or just keep them company.

#memoryroom

#cancer

#palliative care

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ABOUT THE CENTURION HOSPICE

Centurion Hospice provides high quality care to people with life-limiting and life-threatening illness or injuries. Our services are provided in the client's home by a team of professional nurses, social workers and caregivers supported by medical doctors. Medical care, pain management, psychosocial services, bereavement counselling, support groups and support for the carers are also offered.

Our Vision is *quality of life for all living with life-limiting conditions*. We provide physical, psychological, spiritual and bereavement support during this difficult journey and home visits are often the only form of assistance offered to some families. We also deliver medication, and our staff travels to our clients wherever they are.

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