EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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A LIVING MODEL –
THE MODEL IN ACTION

Following is a diagrammatic representation of the generic model for Indigenous Palliative Care and its guiding principles developed directly from the insights of the participants in the research (Northern Territory) and affirmed through the democratic process of national peer-review by experts in Indigenous health. The generic model stands as a base line of information to be applied by service providers to their own unique circumstances.

PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING MODEL

Cultural Safety
Equity
Autonomy
Trust
Humane, Non-Judgmental Care
Seamless Continuity of Care
Emphasis on Living
Respect
• Important to continue normal/satisfying activities such as painting and fishing etc.
• Hospitals need to provide privacy for person to cry – build areas with little garden and tables outside for place to cry
• There is a grief reaction with people in any culture – just need to LISTEN, TALK TO, and slowly sift through issues
• Need more indigenous workers in hospitals to share the grief

6.3 Appreciation that loss affects health professionals as carers

• Participants provided stories of ‘losing it in the office’ and not being supported. Emphasised the NEED for staff DEBRIEFING – important to ‘let if off your chest’. There was only one example where an organisation supported its workers. For most, there was no support
• Health professionals do feel the pain of others and need support

7. DARWIN HOSPICE

• In relation to proposed Darwin Hospice:
  o Need to involve families
  o Need to build in areas for large family meetings
  o Need one big room close to exit area, lots of room for family
  o Need space for families and carers to stay overnight
  o Need to respect and have place for wailing and crying
  o Need outside area so people can go outside, perhaps on a veranda, or garden area outside
  o Need to be flexible e.g. patient might need to leave for treatment - keep bed for their return
  o Need unit like home, self sufficient area with tea/coffee
  o Need to be able to perform smoking ceremonies in the rooms of deceased Aboriginal people

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