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**TRANSFORMING ATTITUDES: A YOUTH INITIATIVE**

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**Background** This collaboration enable nine students in Year 11 and two teachers from Our Lady of Sion College to engage with our patients, their families and staff while exploring a number of topics.

**Aim** Debunking myths about death, dying and the meaning of Palliative Care.

**Methods** Patients and family members were interviewed to explore how they have come to understand how the clinical and non-clinical needs of their family members are met.

**Results** Student Victoria reflects on her experiences ‘I could use the clichéd phrase “it changed my life, but in all reality, it did so much more than that. I learnt that hospitals do not have to be places that are starch-white and unfriendly nor do doctors and nurses have to be people to fear. I learnt that courage is an intangible, amazing force that comes from the most unlikely people and places. I learnt that death does not have to be feared; especially not when it could be embraced. I learnt that it is possible for death, the end of someone’s life, to be a celebration; a celebration of the life that has occurred rather than the death itself...Finally, I learnt to see past the physical or intellectual disabilities and see the person who is inside. The courageous, friendly, funny, intelligent, remarkable person that they truly are”.

**Discussion** The students, their families and the school community have a new understanding of Palliative Care.

**Conclusion** This process can be taught to other health care providers—it will create changes in thinking in the community.