

4 May 2015

Dear Friend,

This is a time of great significance for Otago Community Hospice. This year we are celebrating 25 years of providing care and support to Otago people in Hospice, in their homes and in their communities.

Hospice Awareness Week is coming up (18th – 24th May) and this is an opportunity for us to reflect on what it is that Hospice does and where we have come from. In the early days, Hospice care implied checking into a Hospice care facility. Today Hospice care is centred on supporting people of all ages so they can continue to live normally and with their family, friends and school or work colleagues around them.

Most Hospice care and support in the community and its focus is on offering free of charge assistance to anyone with a life limiting condition.

This takes a lot of skill, training and the help of hundreds of volunteers. While the professional staff is the backbone of any Hospice and I thank them warmly for their commitment and skill, the unique factor in Otago Community Hospice is the wonderful volunteer spirit. It is a measure of the generosity of the people of Otago that our Hospice has been able to reach this amazing milestone. The generosity extends both to monetary gifts but also to the thousands of hours devoted to the care, administration and support of the hundreds of people who have lived with Hospice care.

My role in this is tiny, but I am proud to be the Patron of Otago Community Hospice in its 25th year. Maybe I won't be around for the 50th, but I do know that the people of Otago will continue to be generous with both their time and resources.

Happy Silver Anniversary!



Silvia Cartwright

PCNZM, DBE, DStJ, QSO



Dame Silvia Cartwright

(Photo courtesy of
Government House)

P.S. This year we need to raise \$2m before the end of our financial year – 30 June 2015. So far we have raised approximately \$1.6m leaving a shortfall of \$400,000 to raise. Your gift of \$25, or whatever you can afford, would really help us to ensure we reach this target and ensure that those we care for continue to receive the care and support they require.