

The Orange Heart Symbol Project:

**A Regional Initiative to Enhance
Compassionate End-of-Life Care**

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About Us



The Problem

- Dying is not always visible across teams
- Busy wards can disrupt calm
- Families notice interruptions



How can we improve this.....

The Idea

A discreet visual cue to indicate the last days of life

- Enhance Patient Dignity
- Improve Staff Awareness
- Standardise Communication

Introducing the Orange Heart door sign



How It Works

The Orange Heart door sign is displayed when a patient is nearing the end of life



Please visit the nurses' station before entering this room

- Private and respectful environment
- Essential staff only

Why an orange heart?

Symbol for the palliative
care sector and the
emblem for Palliative
Care Australia



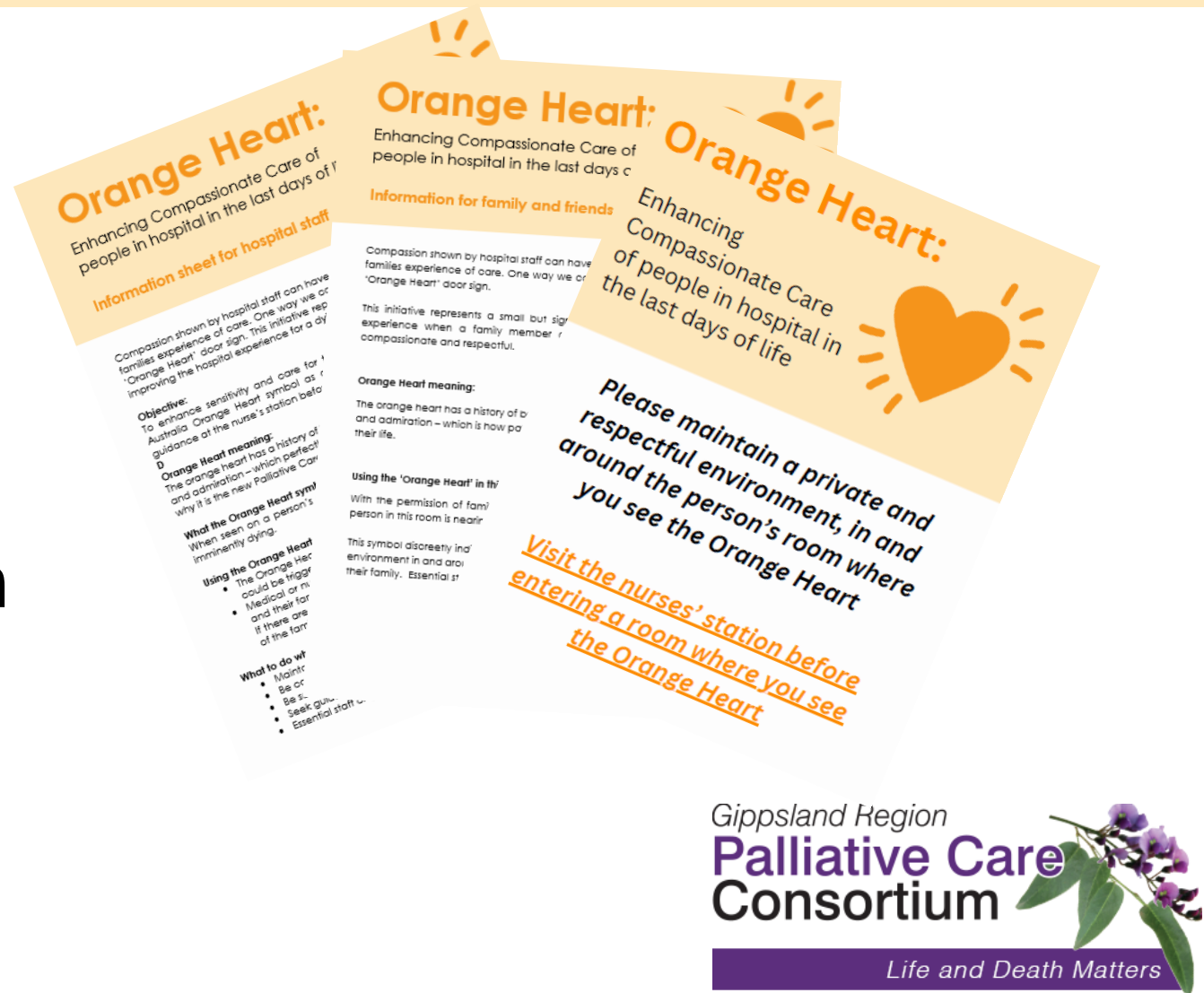
Why it works.....



**The strength
of the HEART
lies in the
PAUSE..**

Implementation Package

- Standards mapping
- Key objectives
- Project development
- Project Implementation
- Education material
- Evaluation strategy



How is it going?

Benefits

- Simple identifier
- Privacy
- Less interruptions
- Good communication
- Auxiliary staff can support family

9 Hospitals **4 RACHs**

**Peter
MacCallum**

How is it going?

Challenges

- Initiating use
- Staff Education
- Staff confidence

**Education is the key to
success**



Key Takeaway

- Start small
- Keep it simple
- Share learnings

www.grpcc.com.au/health-professionals/resources/quality-improvement-projects

