

Headline	Hospice facility needs more support		
MediaTitle	New Sunday Times		
Date	14 Oct 2012	Color	Full Color
Section	Local News	Circulation	156,910
Page No	18	Readership	295,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	222 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 7,243
Frequency	Weekly	PR Value	RM 21,729



'Hospice facility needs more support'

DR EDNIN HAMZAH, chief executive officer of Hospis Malaysia, said palliative care covers those with cancer, organ failure, neurological illnesses, HIV/AIDS and many children's illnesses.

He urged the public and private sectors to provide resources to help the charitable organisation as there was still much to be done in terms of having a solid support system.

"Hospis Malaysia has a professional team to help, but across the country, there is very little similar

support," he said during an email exchange with Raja Zarith Sofiah Sultan Idris Shah recently.

"For patients with advanced illnesses who are going home, training for family members is needed prior to the patient being sent home."

He said Malaysia should look at better hospice facilities in countries such as Singapore, the Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Uganda, Kenya and even Mongolia.

Hospis Malaysia covers 1,600 new referrals each year and has 400 pa-

tients under its care at any one time.

Meanwhile, Dr R. Angamuthu, president of the Palliative Care Association of Johor Baru, said there are about 20 palliative care groups operating in all state capitals in the country now, with some set up in smaller towns in Sabah.

Most of the volunteers provide services at the patient's home, as not many have their own daycare centre, unlike Hospis Malaysia, which has its own facility in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur.



Raja Zarith Sofiah Sultan Idris Shah had rushed to Kuala Lumpur by helicopter when she heard of Zakwan's worsening condition. Pic by Zaharin Hayon