



Bear Cottage's Christmas Caravan of Care set to hit the road

The Bear Cottage "Christmas Caravan of Care" will take to the streets to visit families around New South Wales in the lead up to Christmas.

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions in place, Bear Cottage will take their annual Christmas Party on the road for three weeks delivering Christmas presents to families. The Christmas Caravan of Care will be visiting various locations across New South Wales including Gosford, Port Macquarie, Tamworth, Penrith, Dubbo, Orange, Rouse Hill, Wollongong, Mollismook and Canberra.

Nurse Manager of Bear Cottage, Narelle Martin, who is part of the Bear Cottage convoy says the Christmas Caravan of Care is a new initiative for the sole reason of bringing the Christmas cheer to families and connecting with those families who rely on the hospice for support.

Bear Cottage usually holds a large Christmas party at Bear Cottage for present families and bereaved families but this year they have had to make changes.

"The last six months have been challenging for everyone so we wanted to spread some much needed Christmas joy to all of our patients and their families. Connection is important and many of our families are very isolated in their community. So, if the families can't come to Bear Cottage, we will take Bear Cottage to them," said Narelle.

As well as visiting 279 Bear Cottage families, the Christmas Caravan of Care will also be making toy drops to local hospitals such as Manning Base Hospital and Armidale Hospital where some Bear Cottage children receive care and connecting with Indigenous communities in the Central West.

"To be able to connect with not only families but also Mob from local communities will be a special experience for everyone. We're excited to be hitting the road to spread the Christmas spirit," said Aboriginal Health Worker in Palliative Care & Chronic and Complex Needs at Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, Tanya Quinn.

The Christmas Caravan of Care will leave Bear Cottage early on Monday 7th of December and make its first stop in Port Stephens. The road trip will finish in Canberra on the 23rd of December.

Bear Cottage is a very special place that's dedicated to caring for children with life-limiting conditions and their families. Located on Sydney's Northern Beaches, in Manly, Bear Cottage is like a home away from home and is set up to provide excellence in paediatric medical care 24 hours a day. For more information, visit the Bear Cottage [website](#).

-ends-

Media contact:

Bronwen Simmons

Community Relations Manager

Bear Cottage Children's Hospice

P: 0425 292 491 / 02 9976 8304

E: bronwen.simmons@health.nsw.gov.au