The Centre for Oncology, Rehabilitative and Palliative Care Services held a very successful and well-attended memorial service on 19 April 2012.

The intent was to honour and celebrate the lives of members of our military community and/or their spouses who died in the past year due to chronic life-threatening disease; mainly cancer, and to acknowledge partnerships in care that is both patient-centred and driven; to acknowledge families whom have suffered with illness and loss of a loved one, as well as to publicly re-commit as health professionals to treating people living with cancer and other dreaded disease with the necessary compassion to provide a means to achieving quality of life.
The function was hosted in the garden of tranquility at the Hospice ward (which it is better known as) by the Officer Commanding, Colonel (Dr) Iqram Bux and the presiding Master of Ceremonies, Major Vittorio Dalla Cia. The presence of an eloquent guest speaker, Reverend Peter Fox, added to the ambience of the event. Reverend Peter Fox is well-known as the spiritual counselor at St Lukes Hospice and his poignant talk was very well received by all.

A musical interlude was provided by Staff Sergeant Mario Foster from the SA Army Band and members of the nursing community rendered a duet that moved the audience.

The number of families and members of 2 Mil Hosp staff that attended was heartwarming and encouraging and for some it served as a means to be able to approach our institution again and seek further bereavement counseling. If we have achieved nothing but the latter, we have been successful.
The staggering number of new cases of cancer beckons the smooth operation of a dedicated interdisciplinary and administrative team whose commendable services were acknowledged and appreciated by Capt (Dr) Sharmila Hoosain in her vote of thanks.

I felt encouraged by several informal discussions over tea and acknowledgement of patients and staff to continue with activities of this nature as our ongoing commitment to dedicated service and quality care for our patients.

ARTICLE BY CAPT (DR) LAMEZE PARKER
HOD CENTRE FOR ONCOLOGY, REHAB & PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES, 2 MIL HOSP

PHOTOGRAPHS, LAYOUT AND DESIGN BY BASIL PFISTER: SSGT, CORP COM, 2 MIL HOSP