



*****Media release*****

Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre receives \$68.9m Budget boost

The Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre project received its largest injection of money to date in the State Budget.

"The \$68.9 million pledged means we can build the centre in one stage. This will minimise disruption to the hospital and save money," said Dr Brendan Murphy, Chief Executive Officer.

This funding tops up the \$50 million already received from the Victorian and Federal governments, plus the \$12 million raised by the Appeal.

"Construction is due to start this month and the actual building will be finished in 2012," said Dr Murphy. "Initially it will house the ambulatory services. The plan is to progressively fit-out the inpatient areas and research facilities as fundraising continues."

The historic Zeltner Hall is being renovated and will house the wellness programs and information services from 2012.

An elated Olivia Newton-John flew into Melbourne for a month to celebrate the announcement and to continue her tireless fundraising.

Staff and attending media crowded in to the Education Precinct to see her at an official presentation last Wednesday. She was joined by the Premier, the Hon. John Brumby MP and the Minister for Health, the Hon. Daniel Andrews MP who were clearly thrilled to receive a kiss on the cheek and be labelled 'heroes'.

With emotion, Ms Newton-John spoke of her ordeal with breast cancer in 1992, when she underwent surgery and eight months of chemotherapy. Describing herself as a cancer 'thrivor' rather than 'survivor', Ms Newton-John deplored the lack of holistic treatment available to her eighteen years ago.

"I dreamed of treatment that takes care of the whole person," she said.

This dream will become a reality as meditation, counselling, yoga and art and music therapy will complement the world-class medical treatment already provided by Cancer Services.

The new centre will enable the consolidation of Day Oncology services, now based at two different hospital sites, as well as the expansion of radiotherapy services.

Because of the funding, space can now be included for future inpatient wards and researchers from the international Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research to develop innovative cancer therapies.

The Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre Appeal is aiming to raise an additional \$13 million from public fundraising.

See media footage of Olivia Newton-John [serenading Premier John Brumby](#) and [performing her hit from Grease](#), 'You're the one that I want', in Bourke Street Mall.