

THE WELL WISHER

THE OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN CANCER AND WELLNESS CENTRE APPEAL - UPDATE

A Personal Message from Olivia

The month of May has provided a truly exciting milestone for our Cancer and Wellness Centre Appeal.

After seven years of dreaming, planning and fundraising, I was absolutely thrilled when Premier John Brumby announced the Victorian Government's pledge of a further \$69 million towards our Cancer and Wellness Centre. This is fantastic, because it now means the Centre can be built as a single construction rather than being built in 2 stages. The additional funding also allows for an expanded research area.

I would like to sincerely thank the Brumby Government and also you! Our wonderful supporters have played such an integral role in getting us to where we are today. It is only through your support that this ambitious dream for a world-class Cancer and Wellness Centre will become a reality.



It is so amazing to realise that we are almost there, but not quite. We still need to raise enough money to complete the fit-out of the Centre, in time for the scheduled opening in 2012. I feel so proud of what you and I are achieving. A Centre offering patients the very best in clinical care, cutting-edge research and access to complementary wellness therapies that will help patients throughout their cancer journey... all under the one roof.

I am very proud to be part of this fundraising appeal, knowing that it will benefit cancer patients and their families for decades to come. Every dollar counts.

I thank you for your continued support to help provide the best in cancer care and treatment, with a strong focus on wellness. Here's to a cancer-free future!

Love and light

GENETIC TESTING TO DETERMINE CANCER RISK

Genes play a role in the development of all types of cancers. Genes control the growth, division and life span of every cell in the body. Your genes come in pairs – one inherited from your mother and the other from your father. Some people inherit altered genes that may predispose them to developing particular cancers.

The Austin Health Clinical Genetics Unit provides clinical and laboratory diagnosis and counselling services including advice about a person's risk of developing cancer, genetic counselling, medical advice and, in some situations, genetic testing.

"We see individuals and families where there are often multiple people affected by cancer and, at times, the affected individuals are very young to develop tumours such as breast, bowel and ovarian cancer" said Director of Austin Health Clinical Genetics, Professor Martin Delatycki.

"In some cases, it is appropriate to offer genetic testing," said Professor Delatycki. "Where a cancer predisposing genetic alteration is identified, we can test at-risk family members. If they don't have the alteration, they can be

reassured that their risk is usually no higher than others in the community. If they do have the alteration, they can enter a surveillance program to identify cancers at the earliest possible stage."

Genetic testing aims to detect a genetic alteration that might increase the chances of a person developing a particular cancer. This testing is available to some families with a high risk of a genetic predisposition to certain cancers. A referral from a general practitioner (GP) is required.

The following genetics clinics are being held at Austin Health:

- Familial breast cancer clinic
- Familial bowel cancer clinic
- Neurogenetic clinic
- Adult general genetics clinic
- Paediatric genetics clinic.

Current research suggests that environmental factors such as tobacco, diet, infection, alcohol, drugs, radiation and chemicals are more important than genetic (hereditary) factors in determining development of cancer for most individuals.*

*www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

PROJECT UPDATE WINTER 2010



Premier of Victoria, The Hon. John Brumby pictured with Olivia and Danielle Green, Member for the Yan Yean at the site of the future Cancer and Wellness Centre at Austin Hospital.

The Victorian Government's new injection of \$69 million in funding will enable the Centre to be built in a single rather than staged construction, which will save on building costs. Importantly the new funding provides for an additional research level - which is terrific news. The increased research activity will mean more opportunities for patients to participate and benefit from cancer clinical trials.

Premier of Victoria, The Hon. John Brumby joined our Appeal Patron Olivia Newton-John OBE OA at the Austin Hospital on May 5 for a special briefing on the Cancer and Wellness Centre and to celebrate the new funding.

To mark the occasion, Olivia presented Premier John Brumby with a trowel that reads 'Thanks for digging deep to help build the ONJWC.'

The Commonwealth and State Governments have now collectively committed \$119 million towards the \$186 million centre.

Olivia said, "I would like to sincerely thank the Brumby Government and to everyone who has contributed to this Centre. I am extremely proud of what will be achieved for patients. A purpose built Centre providing the best in clinical care, along with groundbreaking cancer research, together with a Wellness Centre offering a range of programs to help patients through their cancer journey. Programs including massage, yoga, art and music therapy, counselling, a resource centre and much more.

No longer will patients have to travel to two different sites and eleven different departments to access their cancer treatment at Austin Health. The new Centre will offer the best in care, research and support in a world-class facility."

Progress on construction is moving along. Recently tenders for the construction of the Centre closed and we can now formally announce Leighton Contractors have been successful and will be the company appointed to build the Centre. Leighton Contractors have wasted no time at all and are now currently on the building site with construction scheduled to commence in late May.

Opening of the Centre's day treatment areas - Day Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Information and Resources and the Wellness Centre - is scheduled for patients in 2012.

To find out more, visit www.OliviaAppeal.com

ADVANCING RESEARCH INTO MELANOMA CANCER

The Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (LICR) based at the Austin Hospital, was one of the recipients of the Victorian Government's Cancer Action Plan Grants that support groundbreaking research projects.

More than \$3 million was granted for the collaborative research project 'Translating Advances in the Science of Melanoma to Better Patient Outcomes'. This is a multi-team grant of which we [Austin Health and the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research Melbourne Centre] are one of the participating research groups.

The project is led by Associate Professor Grant McArthur; the investigative researchers based at Austin Health include the head of Austin/Ludwig Oncology Unit Professor Jonathan Cebon and medical oncologist and cancer immunologist Professor Ian Davis.

FUNDRAISING DEPARTMENT HAS MOVED



The Fundraising Department, along with the Volunteer Services Manager have moved to the Ground Floor of the South Wing at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.

The move has created a centralised focal point for our supporters and volunteers. We have included a map for you, so please feel free to come by and introduce yourself between 9am-5pm weekdays.

Fundraising's main reception phone number remains the same 03 9496 5753 and fax 03 9496 5160. Our email and web address remain the same: Email: OliviaAppeal@austin.org.au and Web: www.OliviaAppeal.com. We look forward to seeing you at our new home!

RESEARCH BOOST INTO AUSTRALIA'S MOST COMMON CANCER

More than 12,000 people are diagnosed each year with colon cancer and more than a third of those people – 4,000 Australians – will die as a result.

The Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (LICR) based at Austin Hospital, is involved in a collaborative research program to develop new ways of detecting and treating cancers of the colon and rectum; the most common form of cancer in Australia.

This collaborative initiative will tackle several key projects relating to the discovery and analysis of the genetic causes of colon cancer, the development of biomarkers for the early detection of colon cancer and the continuing development of therapies targeted specifically to colon cancer cells.

The importance of this research initiative was recognised by the National Health and Medical Research Council last year, with a \$20 million grant – the largest granted by the Council in 2009. Professor Andrew Scott, Director of LICR, is a chief investigator on this grant.

Over the years, scientists and clinicians have moved away from small groups working on individual aspects of a research problem, to working in larger, collaborative, groups in which researchers from multiple disciplines can combine knowledge and expertise.

The Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre, when completed, will also include dedicated LICR research facilities to bring together top-quality scientific and clinical minds that will further enhance the vital collaboration needed to progress efforts in combating cancer.

The partnership between LICR and Austin Health is crucial to bringing discoveries from LICR's global cancer research to human benefit. The Cancer and Wellness Centre will build upon this solid base at Austin Health to provide more opportunities to improve cancer treatments and outcomes.

DID YOU KNOW?

The LICR Austin Branch, is part of the world's largest cancer research institute. The LICR currently has ten branches in seven countries. The non-profit Institute's infrastructure allows it to patent research discoveries, and sponsor and conduct its own clinical trials in Europe, North America and Australasia, meaning that any research findings can be rapidly translated into early-phase clinical trials.

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STAR VISITS CANCER WARDS



Pict courtesy of Andrew Raszevski

Patient Angela Pirruccio - "I never imagined that I would have the opportunity to meet the Sir Cliff! I used to sing along to his songs."

"The more I learn about Olivia's Cancer and Wellness Centre, the more I realise that it's going to be something very different and necessary and unbelievably positive for the planet," said Sir Cliff.

"I ask those who may have been touched by the disease, to support Olivia's Appeal and help rid our planet of cancer and provide patients with the best of care."

To find out more about the Appeal, visit www.OliviaAppeal.com

SIR CLIFF RICHARD CONCERT TICKETS RAISE FUNDS

Sir Cliff Richard kindly gave the Appeal three double backstage "meet and greet" tickets for his Melbourne Valentines Day concert. The tickets were auctioned in aid of the Appeal and raised \$16,250!

Barbara Drummond successfully bid an incredible \$10,000. "It means a lot to me knowing that my money was going to such a worthwhile cause. I really want to give Olivia a big hug for all the wonderful things that she is doing for cancer through the Appeal."

Glenice Gilbert was another fan whose son purchased tickets in support of the Appeal so she had the "once in a lifetime experience" of meeting Sir Cliff Richard. The third set of tickets sold at another fundraising event that raised a further \$2,250 for the Appeal.

Thank you TO OUR CARING COMMUNITY

Thank you so much to everyone in the community who continue to help support the Appeal.

Donations and fundraising events bring the vision for a world-class Cancer and Wellness Centre closer to reality.

Our thanks goes to: Rotary Against Ovarian Cancer (RoCan) a trust fund established by Rotary Club of Williamstown. RoCan founder Yvonne Moon held a fashion luncheon at Moonee Valley in February. Ms Moon OAM is a tireless advocate in her efforts to raise the awareness of ovarian cancer. In Australia alone 1300 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year.

'Chocolatier Australia' continues to fundraise for the Appeal through their gift wrapping service that has raised \$2,817 since 2008. They also kindly donated a chocolate hamper for the first prize winner of our 'best volunteer' competition held for our Melbourne Cup Carnival partnership last year.

An Australian fashion designer, Debra Mar, collaborated with an Archibald Portrait finalist Anna Minardo to fuse

art and fashion in a dramatic display of 'art in motion'. The event was held during the L'Oreal Fashion Festival in March, to raise funds for the Appeal. One of our Appeal Ambassadors, Tottie Goldsmith, attended the event, which included people painting on fashion garments designed under Ms Mar's 'Blacklisted' fashion label.

An ACP Magazines/Benefiber Charity Fun Run was held at Centennial Parklands in Sydney in May, in support of the Appeal. Model

and TV personality Annalise Braakensiek (and surfing champion Layne Beachley) kindly donated their time to attend the event to represent the Appeal and accepted a donation of \$1,000 on our behalf.



Pictured here is the RoCan organising committee



YES! I WISH TO HELP ACHIEVE THE DREAM

PATIENT STORY



Joe, enjoying time with his daughter.

It's not often that a bout of pneumonia can be thought of as a good thing. But for 44-year-old family man Joe Chiera, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

It was the height of summer, just five months ago, when flu-like symptoms and pain in his lungs took Joe to his GP. Pneumonia was quickly diagnosed, but during a routine drug test, Joe's doctor also picked up some unusual results.

A week later, when his fever and blood test results had not improved, Joe was admitted to the Austin Hospital, where more detailed tests revealed he had leukaemia.

"It was a terrible shock when they gave me the news," says Joe. "My wife was with me and some relatives too. There were tears. I felt really alone and shattered, but I had faith that everything would be alright."

Fortunately for Joe, his cancer was detected early - thanks in part to the pneumonia - and his doctors are aiming for him to be all clear by next January. But his treatment regime is intensive, painful and exhausting. It's taking a heavy toll on his system, both physically and emotionally.

Consequently, Joe believes the wellness therapies that will be available through the new Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre will be of immense benefit to people like him.

"It's very, very important," he says of the Centre's planned Wellness Centre. "Because half the battle is just trying to be strong. I believe that if you're strong in your mind, you can pretty much conquer anything. And that's why the Centre is so good. Anything that can get you strong in body and mind so you can tackle the world again, is fantastic."

Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Ph H: () _____ Ph W: () _____

Mobile number: _____

Email Address: _____

I am already an Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre Appeal OR Austin Health Supporter.

My supporter number is: _____

Enclosed is my **cheque/money order** made payable to Austin Health for the amount I have ticked:

\$100 \$50 \$25 \$500 \$2,500

\$ _____ my choice

Please debit the amount I have indicated from my:

VISA MASTERCARD

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Signature _____ Expiry Date ____/____

FOR REGULAR MONTHLY DONATIONS

I authorise the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre Appeal to make automatic monthly deductions from my credit card (details as above) until further notice.

Monthly amount is: \$

Automatic deduction on the following date:

17th commencing (month) _____

Signature _____

Please send me information about:

Joining Olivia's Circle (our monthly giving program)

Making a bequest to the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre Appeal in my Will

All donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible

If you do not wish to receive any further fundraising communications from us, please write to us or phone

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OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN

CANCER AND WELLNESS CENTRE APPEAL

Embracing Medical Care and Wellness