

Report for the 2014 AGM of the 24 Hour Fight Against Cancer Macarthur

I am pleased to report to the 24 Hour Fight Against Cancer Macarthur on how the work of the Committee and the generosity of the people and businesses of Macarthur and Wollondilly have continued to help our patients, their families and carers within the Macarthur Cancer Centre, Camden Palliative Care Unit and day Hospital, Paediatric Ambulatory Care and the Oncology Ward at Campbelltown Hospital.

The main reasons for requests for expenditure from the 24 Hour Fight Against Cancer Macarthur remain improving care and comfort, patient and staff education and delivery of safe treatment. In addition, this year, Cancer Services have embarked on the building of a Cancer Survivorship Wellness Centre at Camden to provide services and support programmes for patients after a diagnosis of cancer and subsequent treatment. I am pleased to say that the 24 Hr Fight Against Cancer Macarthur is a Foundation Sponsor with a pledge for \$300,000. We have Michael Clarke as the ambassador for the project and we are seeking to promote this to the community as the project plans and architectural drawing mature.

I am pleased to report the commencement of a dedicated Cancer Care Co-ordinator for gastrointestinal and genitourinary cancer commenced work at the Macarthur Cancer Centre in Mar 2014 with the generosity of the 24Hr Fight Against Cancer Macarthur. Unexpected sick leave has this position currently vacant. Additional pumps to deliver pain medications at home, equipment to reduce the risk of patients falling and equipment to reduce the chances of bleeding during operations will all improve patient safety. Recliner chairs for patients and families will improve patient comfort and the continuation of the pet therapy programme with the Delta Dogs has been welcomed.

At the April 2014 meeting funding approval was granted for bursary and scholarships for staff to improve their education and to provide equipment for a new research study looking at assessing the effectiveness of rectal cancer treatments with radiation and chemotherapy.

As always, I remain grateful for all the hard work the 24 Hour Fight Against Cancer Macarthur Committee do for the community of the Macarthur and Wollondilly regions. It is a privilege to work with the 24 Hour Fight Against Cancer Macarthur and their strong focus on direct patient care in providing unique services that no other cancer centre in the state has. The fact that all of the money raised stays local and directly benefits the community is the greatest strength of the Committee.

I am proud to be the hospital representative on the 24 Hour Fight Against Cancer Macarthur and look forward to ongoing collaboration and working to further benefit the patients, families and carers in the Macarthur and Wollondilly communities.



A/Prof Stephen Della-Fiorentina
Director
Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre

26 May 2014