



# Media Release

10 November 2003

## Improving Communications with Breast Cancer Patients

Hospital and community nursing staff caring for breast cancer patients will have the opportunity to improve their communication skills and networks at a training workshop being held this Wednesday (12 November) in Hobart.

The Corus Hotel will be the venue for the Communication Skills Training Workshop, which has been organised by The Cancer Council Tasmania, through its *Strengthening Support for Women with Breast Cancer Project*.

Workshop convenor and *Strengthening Support for Women with Breast Cancer* project officer Melinda Minstrell said the purpose of the workshop was to strengthen communication networks among service providers and between service providers and consumers.

“Women’s experiences through the whole breast cancer journey can vary widely and the purpose of this workshop is to raise awareness of patients’ perspectives and differing needs as well as improve participants’ clinical skills in communicating with women who have breast cancer.”

The workshop program was developed by the National Breast Cancer Centre and utilises role-play to provide opportunities to practice difficult communication scenarios and receive feedback. The workshop format is designed to suit nurses working in surgical settings, providing ongoing treatment and those working in support services.

Invitations to the free workshop were sent to directors of nursing in public and private hospitals, community nursing, and palliative care. Twenty nurses from across the southern region will be attending the workshop. A similar workshop was held in November 2002 the northwest and June 2003 in the north.

**ENDS**

**Workshop Date**      Wednesday 12 November  
**Location**            Goulburn Room, Corus Hotel, 156 Bathurst Street, Hobart  
**Time**                    9:00am - 5:00pm  
(on the day interviews preferred during breaks at 10:30 – 11am and 12:45 – 1:45pm)

**For further information or to organise a photo opportunity:**

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