



# MEDIA RELEASE

**24 September 2004**

## **Cancer Council AGM**

Tobacco control issues and the development of a state cancer strategy were cited as important priorities by The Cancer Council Tasmania at its annual general meeting in Hobart last night.

The Council's Chairman, Harvey Cuthill, said progress in these two areas would deliver both immediate and long-term benefits to the Tasmanian community.

He said awareness of lung cancer and the dangers of smoking had been heightened by the courageous efforts of the Council's late Vice Patron, Jim Bacon.

Mr Cuthill said figures released during the year had shown a dramatic increases in cancer rates during the 20 years 1980-1999.

"This increase of 25% in men and 30% in women means that one in three men and one in four women are going to be directly affected by cancer before the age of seventy-five.

"When we take in to account the fact that there are approximately 7,000 Tasmanians living with cancer, one quarter of whom have persistent or incurable forms of cancer, it is obvious that there is an urgent need for coordinated Government action and investment in cancer control.

Mr Cuthill also cited the outstanding community support which had led to the success of Relay for Life.

"This event has captured a national fundraising record by being the first cancer fundraising event to raise more than \$1 per head of population, raising over \$540,000 to fund community based cancer services in Tasmania in 2004.

Mr Cuthill paid tribute to founding Council board member, Professor Ray Lowenthal, who recently completed a three year term as President of The Cancer Council Australia.

**Ends**

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