

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 8 November, 2005

Breast cancer public forum

Tasmanians with a special interest in breast cancer will have the chance to hear about the latest developments in treatment, care and support through a free national satellite broadcast this Saturday (12 November).

Participants at venues in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie will hear presentations by Australian experts on hormonal treatments, menopause and cancer, and clinical trials. Talks will also be given by representatives of breast cancer support and action groups.

The interactive forum – aimed at breast cancer patients, their families and the broader community – is an annual event organised by the New South Wales Breast Cancer Institute and coordinated locally by The Cancer Council Tasmania. It is part of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing's *Strengthening Support for Women with Breast Cancer* project.

Last year, more than 1000 people at 55 sites across Australia and New Zealand took part.

The Cancer Council's Information Officer, Ms Lesley Cooper, said breast cancer was the most common form of cancer among Australian women, with almost 12,000 new cases diagnosed each year (including more than 300 in Tasmania). In addition, around 100 Australian men are diagnosed with breast cancer each year.

"There is constant demand for information about all aspects of breast cancer – it was the subject of more calls to our Cancer Helpline than any other form of cancer last year," she said.

"This event gives Tasmanians in regional areas – not just the capital – the chance to access up-to-date information from respected national experts."

The satellite broadcast will be followed by local discussions at each venue.

Details of the forum venues are given below. Members of the public seeking further information can call the Cancer Council Helpline on 13 11 20.

Forum details

When: 12.30 - 4 pm on Saturday, 12 November
Where: Hobart – Wrest Point Casino (Derwent Room)
Launceston – Newstead Hotel, 173 Elphin Road
Burnie – RSL Club, 36 Alexander Street
What: The forum program is available at www.tourhosts.com.au/bcipublicforum

For further information/interview:

Ms Lesley Cooper – tel. 6336 2030 or 0407 879 571