

**Background:**

More than 2400 Tasmanians are diagnosed with cancer each year – that is more than six every day. While over 1000 of these will die, many more now survive thanks to new treatment options. However this, along with more cancers diagnosed as the population ages, increases the demand on the state's already stretched cancer services.

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## Future Health of Tasmanian cancer care



### **How the new health plan will impact on cancer care in Tasmania**

10.30 Registration and morning tea

11.00 Introduction – **Mr LAWSON RIDE**, CEO, Cancer Council Tasmania

11.10 **Dr DAVID BOADLE**, Chief Medical Officer, DHHS

11.30 **Dr STAN GAUDEN**, Radiation Oncologist, LGH

11.50 **Dr CRAIG WHITE**, CEO, Royal Hobart Hospital

12.10 Panel Discussion, lead by **Prof RAY LOWENTHAL**, Oncologist, RHH

~ 12.40 Lunch ~

13.10 **Ms SIOBHAN HARPUR**, Acting Deputy Secretary, Primary Health

13.30 **Prof DAVID CURROW**, CEO, Cancer Australia

13.50 **Mr ROBERT BRODRIBB** – Chair, Tasmanian Cancer Strategy

14.10 Panel Discussion, lead by **Prof RAY LOWENTHAL**, Senior Hobart Oncologist

**Moorilla Estate**

**28 July 2007**

**11am – 2.30pm**

To register contact Gayle Newbold on 6233 6921 or email [gnewbold@cancertas.org.au](mailto:gnewbold@cancertas.org.au)

# MEDIA RELEASE



27 July 2007

## **Urgent new deal needed to avoid cancer exodus**

Tasmania could soon lose oncologists unless the state government acts urgently to address workforce issues, leading cancer experts warn.

Launceston's Holman Clinic director Dr Stan Gauden said the same issues that had recently driven the state's only northern oncologist to relocate to Hobart could force other oncologists from the state altogether.

Dr Gauden, in Hobart to address a Cancer Council Tasmania health forum, said overwork and lack of clinical support were slowly sapping the energy and morale of the state's small band of dedicated cancer medicos.

"Unless the state government commits more dollars to solve these issues and turns its mind to succession planning, Tasmanian cancer services and patients will suffer," Dr Gauden said.

"Even the much-needed introduction of a positron emission tomography (PET) scanner, which will benefit many cancer patients – if it happens – will be less than fully effective if there's insufficient staff for its operation," he said.

Senior Hobart oncologist Prof Ray Lowenthal told the forum that while the government's commitment to cancer services in the new health plan was welcome, the time had come to turn words into action.

"All Tasmanians deserve equitable access to cancer services, but access is unfairly restricted for people living in the north of the state and for the less mobile in our community," Prof Lowenthal said.

"Providing services without addressing access issues such as transport and accommodation creates hardship and disadvantage.

"For example, the Cancer Council Tasmania has transported 2000 people to treatment already this year. Clearly, it should not fall to our charities to fund essential services for cancer patients," he said.

**For comment please call Dr Stan Gauden on 0409 356 412  
or Prof Ray Lowenthal on 0418 128 053**

**ENDS**

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