

MEDIA RELEASE



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Cancer patient transport is on a roll

While Tasmanians enjoy good quality cancer treatment, if they live outside Launceston or Hobart transport to treatment is sometimes a nightmare.

Cancer Council Tasmania chief executive officer Lawson Ride said that to overcome gaps in the state's transport system his organisation had set up a volunteer-based *transport 2 treatment* patient transport service in late 2006.

Mr Ride said that since that time the Cancer Council's service had made well over 4000 passenger trips to the state's two major oncology clinics in Launceston and Hobart.

"We set up *transport 2 treatment* because we were increasingly hearing stories of some Tasmanian cancer patients refusing treatment because of insurmountable transport problems," Mr Ride said.

"Since we began, more than 93% of passengers have told us they could not have attended all their treatments without our service," he said.

Cancer patients receiving radiation therapy are forced to make the return journey to Launceston or Hobart five times a week for up to six weeks.

The Cancer Council provides its service at no personal cost to patients.

"The Cancer Council picks up the \$100,000+ a year price tag for the transport service with funding from community fundraising through Relay For Life. It is also generously supported by foundation partners DJ Motors and RACT, as well as Telstra Next G," Mr Ride said.

"Holman Clinic oncology treatment centres can organise transport when patients book their treatment programs. Appointments are scheduled to minimise waiting time at the clinics."

Picture caption: The Cancer Council *transport 2 treatment* bus travels from Burnie to Launceston Monday to Friday picking up cancer patients along route.

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