

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 27 September

“Seize the Day” Opportunity for Young Tasmanians affected by Cancer

A new awards program was launched in Hobart today that assists with the post secondary education costs of young Tasmanians who have had cancer or been affected by cancer through an immediate family member.

The Cancer Council Tasmania's (TCCT) *Seize the Day Awards* are proudly supported by IGA Supermarkets Tasmania and Cripps Nubake, who are donating three cents from every loaf of Black and Gold bread sold throughout the State.

The Awards are part of the TCCT's *Cancer PLUS* program, set up to educate and support families of children with cancer, survivors of childhood cancer and the professionals who care for them.

Melanie Tatsi, who is now in remission after suffering Hodgkin's Lymphoma, said there are many issues impacting on young people living with cancer, such as further health problems, loss of income for the family, deciding on the future and lack of confidence.

“The Awards provide an amazing opportunity, not only by offering financial support, but also by encouraging the dreams and goals of cancer sufferers, which helps them stay positive” Ms Tatsi said.

TCCT Director of Cancer Services Jean Dagleish said the scholarships, ranging from approximately \$300- \$3000, provided young people coping with cancer with practical financial support to assist them to pursue a career.

“The *Seize the Day Awards* are designed to foster the personal growth and development of these young Tasmanians, by allowing them to focus on the future and set career goals,” Ms Dagleish said.

“The Awards can be used for any post-secondary education, whether it be through TAFE, University, a business college or through an apprenticeship or traineeship.

“The funds can be used for anything from HECS fees and student fees, to accommodation, textbooks, stationary, transport and equipment.”

Tasmanian Independent Retailers (TIR) General Manager Peter Wise said young people affected by cancer went through a lot of heartache, yet still continued to look to the future with hope and optimism.

“We hope the Awards will encourage young people coping with cancer to look past their present concerns and strive towards their futures,” Mr Wise said.

Nominations are open to people between the ages of 16 and 21 years, who are planning to or currently undertaking full-time, part-time or external post-secondary education.

An Award application kit can be obtained by calling Jean Dalgleish at TCCT on 6336 2030 or by emailing jdalgleish@cancertas.org.au and applications close on Friday, 2 December 2005.

ENDS

For further information: TCCT Director of Cancer Services Jean Dalgleish: 0408 514 902

LAUNCH DETAILS:

Date: Tuesday, 27 September 2005

Time: 11.30am

Location: The Cancer Council Tasmania, 184 Collins Street, Hobart. Tel: 6233 2030