Our Reconciliation Action Plan

February 2019 - January 2020

Cancer Council Tasmania has developed the organisation’s first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The first of four plans, our Reflect document was created after significant milestones occurred in CCT’s reconciliation journey.

This journey included the formation of a RAP Working Group comprised of representatives of the Board, management, staff, Aboriginal staff and an external cultural consultant.

The document, beautifully illustrated by Jaye Gangalidda, an Aboriginal artist who has also developed and delivered community healing workshops and programs.

Our Reflect RAP document is available for viewing or download on our website cancertas.org.au.

Acknowledgement of Country. On behalf of Cancer Council Tasmania, we would like to acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We also extend that respect to other First Australians who are present today.
A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Welcome to another edition of our Daffodil News. It has been a busy year across all parts of the organisation.

Our support services and programs are being well patronised with a number of new programs including exercise physiology in the south and nutrition workshops in the north. With new and larger premises at the north west cancer centre in Devonport, we have been able to provide a wider range of programs and services. This year, we are on track to deliver many more occasions of support than we have ever achieved before.

Thank you to everyone who has fundraised or donated to CCT this year. Our Relay For Life events were amazing with so many participants. At least the weather was kinder to us this year so we could all enjoy the weekend. The month of May is our Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea month, a wonderful event that brings people and communities together to share a cuppa. Thank you to all our hosts for making the time to hold an event. The generosity of Tasmanians continues to astound me and all of us are very thankful for your support.

We continue to invest into priority cancer research and earlier this year provided research grants to three early career researchers. In May we held our first Cancer Council Tasmania Jeanne Foster Public Talk at the Hobart Cancer Support Centre which was delivered by our Research Fellow Dr Liesel Fitzgerald. We hope to hold a few more talks over the course of the next 12 months. Jeanne Foster was Cancer Council Tasmania’s first major benefactor.

Winter is nearly upon us. Try not to get too comfortable in front of the fire but fit in an invigorating walk, keep active and eat well. They all support our messages on how to reduce your cancer risk.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter. Stay safe… and warm.

Penny Egan, CEO

New occupational cancer e-learning module

In some Australian workplaces, employees are exposed to a diverse range of carcinogens at higher concentrations and for longer periods of time than the general public. It has been estimated that 3.6 million Australians are exposed to at least one carcinogen at work and approximately 5,000 cancers each year are caused by workplace exposures.

It is essential GPs have the knowledge and skills to be able to assist patients in monitoring their health, identifying potential risks and be able to provide or direct patients to further information if working in high-risk jobs with known carcinogens.

Cancer Council has developed an e-learning module to increase GP’s awareness of workplace carcinogens and cancers. The module includes sections on occupational carcinogens in the Australian context, the role of an exposure history, common occupational cancers including lung, skin, bladder and mesothelioma, and the Australian compensation system.

The 60 minute module is accredited with both RACGP and ACRRM. You can complete the module by registering at cancercouncil.litmos.com.au/online-courses
Evelyn Pedersen Elite Research Scholarship

Kelsie Raspin is our successful recipient of the Evelyn Pedersen Elite Research Scholarship. She is currently completing a PhD candidature at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research in the Cancer, Genetics and Immunology group. Kelsie grew up on Tasmania’s East Coast and at only 26 years old is already in her third year of the PhD. Her PhD project focuses on the identification of rare mutations in genes that underpin prostate cancer. Prostate cancer incidence (detection) has increased dramatically since the introduction of PSA-screening in the 1980s, and often leads to the over-diagnosis and treatment of men with indolent disease. Using data from Tasmanian families with a dense aggregation of prostate cancer she is currently studying the effects of rare genetic mutations found in these families on gene and protein expression in prostate tumours from affected men.

The research will provide significant insight into the prostate’s normal biology, as well as how prostate cancer develops, and more importantly, why a third of cases progress to an aggressive disease. In the future, this knowledge may lead to the discovery of genetic biomarkers (similar to the BRCA genes related to breast cancer) to diagnose and specifically classify prostate cancer.

This will result in fewer men having to undergo invasive procedures, such as biopsies and reduce the complications currently associated with cancer diagnoses and treatment, which will improve the quality of life of cancer patients and their families.

Identification of prostate cancer-causing mutations could also enable targeted therapeutic options for affected men and hopefully a decrease in cancer mortality.

New Public Talk Series

On 2 May Dr Leisel Fitzgerald gave an interested audience a quick lesson on genes and genetics, the history of Tasmania and why the state is the perfect place to study prostate cancer. The information was carefully broken down in simple diagrams and explanations which made it engaging and interesting to everyone who attended.

Dr Fitzgerald’s presentation is the first in a series of ‘Jeanne Foster Public Talks’ on topics related to cancer research. Attendance is free and is supported by Cancer Council’s first Benefactor, Jeanne Foster, which allows us to provide these regular informative talks.

Seize the Day Scholarship

Since 2006, Cancer Council Tasmania (CCT) have offered Seize the Day Educational Scholarships to help young Tasmanians impacted by cancer achieve their educational and career goals. Offered to people aged 16–25 years, impacted by their own cancer diagnosis or the diagnosis or death of a close family member, the financial assistance provides practical help. Also, by linking with CCT, young people can access emotional support and referrals to relevant services if needed. We hope this helps them feel less alone as they navigate the challenges that cancer brings.

Cancer Council’s CEO Penny Egan says “The scholarship is more than just the monetary worth, it acknowledges the difficulties the students have faced and gives them the encouragement to remain positive and persevere when facing adverse circumstances and pursue their future goals.” This year Cancer Council Tasmania gave out 47 scholarships, worth $38,000. These scholarships have been generously supported for three years by the Cape Hope Foundation who have annually provided $15,000 sponsorship to Northern recipients. Recently presented, the scholarships will help fund university courses, apprenticeships and other post-secondary education.

The next round of scholarship applications will open in November.
SAVE THE DATE

**DRY JULY**
dryjuly.com

**SPARKLE FOR HOPE GALA BALL**
Launceston

**WINTER BALL**
Hobart

**Cancer Council Daffodil Day**
daffodilday.com.au

**WOMEN’S 5KM WALK/RUN**
Launceston

girlsnightin.com.au

**UNITE IN Yellow**
- Hobart Lunch 18 October
- Launceston Breakfast 25 October

**KOKODA CHALLENGE**
Let the adventure begin

Need more information on any of these events?
Contact Jill Bannon (Monday, Tuesday or Friday) jbannon@cancertas.org.au or 03 6169 1911
Skin Cancer Prevention

Cancer Council Tasmania (CCT) ran a workshop recently for secondary school year students to educate them on skin cancer prevention and early detection. We used their ideas to help us in cancer prevention work to engage younger adults in adolescent settings such as schools, festivals, sports and pools.

It was a great opportunity to have 16 student leaders from different schools in the North of the state so willing to participate, volunteer information and learn about sun protection. One participant, who had experienced a pre-cancerous skin condition caused by sun exposure, spoke to the students about why sun protection should be an issue for them, even at a young age. We delivered a presentation afterwards to educate the students on skin cancer, UV, prevention and early detection. The students got to brainstorm ideas for programs, resources and ideas to engage adolescents in sun smart practices.

The students will now circulate sun smart messages back to their schools and peers to assist in changing younger people’s behaviour towards UV exposure - hopefully leading to some new habits on the beach and on the sports field!

Breast Cancer Network Australia

We participated in a Breast Cancer Network Australia forum held in the Door For Hope building in Launceston in February. Our display was run by wonderful Cancer Council Tasmania volunteers - Sharon Woolridge and Mary Malony both of whom are Co-Facilitators for our Breast Cancer Support Group and Lynn De Vries who volunteers by visiting hospitals to provide support for breast cancer clients. Thank you ladies.
It’s 1.00am in the early hours of Sunday morning as a conversation flows and the meaning of Relay For Life is captured…

“This is such an important event for our team, to talk about cancer and our loved ones we’ve lost, we really believe in supporting this cause.”

This was Cancer Council Tasmania’s 19th year of Relay For Life in Tasmania, an event that continues to be valued by our community.

From across Hobart, Launceston, North West (Penguin) and Derwent Valley we walked for the many reasons relating to cancer – to CELEBRATE Life, to REMEMBER loved ones passed and to FIGHT BACK against this disease through fundraising.

Thank you to our 4,715 participants (281 teams) who walked a track over 20 hours, raising over $788,000 to support Cancer Council Tasmania to reduce the impact and incidence of cancer across our Tasmanian communities.

Thank you to the many volunteer committee members who help make these events entertaining and engaging for our communities.

Thank you to our many supporters who’s financial contribution, either cash or in-kind help us to deliver these important events.

Relay For Life is a wonderful example of the strength and support that exists across our Tasmanian communities. Together in solidarity, we can make a difference – Thank you!

Anthony Edwards
Relay For Life, Cancer Council Tasmania

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For more information contact Tammy Nicol on 03 6169 1917 or email tnicol@cancertas.org.au
Robyn’s journey through Cancer, Art and Cancer Council Tasmania

In 2016 some lumps came up on my throat. They felt like marbles underneath my skin – they were quite distinct - well shaped and round. Definitely there.

I had some scans and the advice was to watch and monitor. They got a bit bigger. After an ultrasound and fine needle biopsy, the diagnosis was low-grade B cell lymphoma.

I was reasonably OK. I don’t know why I wasn’t more concerned… I’ve had a lot of cancer in my life… my dad… my mum… now me… we’ve all had cancer. I’ve just had an acceptance and a tolerance that things can go wrong.

But then, a few weeks later, it hit me. It was almost like the adrenaline suddenly stops running through your body. Sometimes there can be tears and the impact catches up with you. I’ve learned over the years that if emotion is there then just go for it and to not push it away.

Later, I was sitting in haematology at the RHH… waiting… and I kept on noticing posters on the wall. The Cancer Council daffodil yellow popped out a lot and caught my eye. They were advertising an art group and other programs. There was also a beautiful art display in the foyer. I remember the pictures were so emotional for me. The theme of the art was all about “what I do to keep me going”. As I read their stories it really connected deep inside of me too. I thought ‘oh my I’m a really creative person’ and I want to reconnect with that.

Connecting to Art Therapy through Cancer Council Tasmania

Calling the Cancer Council Tasmania number, I got the lovely Sarah on the other end of the phone and started Art Therapy classes. That first day was a big ‘aha’ moment for me. When I was speaking to Sarah she made me feel important. How she talked to me, and what she offered me, was beautiful. I burst out crying and I thought thank God there’s something here for me.

All of a sudden I found I needed a carer. My dad couldn’t do it… my friends were busy. Not everyone has people or a lot of support. And so for me coming to the Cancer Council Tasmania, I thought, far out, this is my family… my home. This is my community. This is the missing link in my life.

At my first art class I felt really comfortable and ok from the moment I walked in.

I was in the right place. It felt good. I didn’t know these people but felt connected to them already.

No matter how scary it feels to pick up the phone, give Cancer Council Tasmania a call. It’s going to be the best thing you ever do.

Be expressive, open and honest about how you feel and find out what treatments and activities you need – a massage, Bowen therapy or a bushwalk or just go to Cancer Council Tasmania and have a cuppa, a chat and a lovely biscuit.

Build up awareness and knowledge about all the different aspects of getting well. The more you do that, the more confidence and inner strength you have. That will give you a place to work from so you can face what is coming today tomorrow or in the future.

Robyn has now been given the all clear and has returned to study, journal writing, regular daily practice of mindfulness as well as progressive relaxation technique, fitball yoga and pilates. Her favourite thing is writing, art and collecting poems and verses and putting them in a display. Robyn was born and bred in Tasmania.

For the cost of a coffee your generosity can make a real difference. You can now donate $5 to Cancer Council Tasmania via SMS!

DONATE $5!
SMS DONATE TO 199 88 214
Charge $5 per SMS. Amello Pty Ltd Helpline 1300 783 035.

CANCER COUNCIL TASMANIA
Community Fundraisers

The Daffodil makes it to New York

Dan Owens, or as we like to call him `Dan Dan the Running Man,’ took the daffodil all the way to the big apple whilst competing in the New York marathon.

Dan has been a long time supporter of Cancer Council Tasmania. Last year he decided he wanted to set himself a personal challenge of running the New York Marathon and using this as an opportunity to fundraise for CCT’s transport2treatment.

Dan raised over $14,000 in cash and in-kind support for the t2t program. Congratulations Dan!

Des & Mavis make it $100k

“We are very pleased to report that we are almost up to our target of $100,000. Our Dancing group is getting smaller due to sickness and aging. The members who are unable to dance, come along and enjoy the fellowship, listening to old tunes and singing songs of yesterday year. We have a variety of dances, old and new. We end up with a nice cup of tea or coffee and a chat. The money we raise goes to Cancer research in Tasmania” - Des & Mavis.

Meetings times: Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm
Monday from 8pm to 10pm
Kensington Church Hall, Kensington st, Glenorchy.
Des and Mae Peterson ph 6272 7421.

Betty did it!

92 years young, Betty Biega has been knitting, sewing, cutting, sticking and raffling for 8 years to reach her target of $20,000. And she did! Her Christmas stall saw this amazing target reached.

Moorina Golf Club’s charity golf day

Lyn and Colleen presented us with a generous donation of $3,000 raised at the Moorina Golf Club’s charity golf day held on the 5th May.

Thank you and good luck with the golf!

Catch Ya Cancer

#CYC Catch Ya Cancer

A massive THANKYOU to Megan and Alex who have raised a grand total of $26,721 for Cancer Council Tasmania through their #CatchYaCancer fundraising campaign.

These amazing ladies shaved their heads in front of hundreds at the Dance Fit end of year performance.

Dance Fit in Launceston will shave her head at the Dance Fit Celebration Concert on Saturday November 24th 2018, with all money donated directly deposited to Cancer Council Tasmania. Her hair is the least she can lose rather than a life of another loved one. #CYC
Keeping the beat

At the launch of his new EP, neo-soul, roots and future beat music artist Swaz Benjamin raised $1,000 for Cancer Council Tasmania. Look out for his shows around Hobart.

When heads are shaved…

What you can do in just 14 days…

On December 21st last year, Di and Natalie Gray paid a visit to Cancer Council Tasmania to donate $12,146 they had raised from a head shaving fundraiser. At this time of year, this is such an amazing contribution and will support those Tasmanians impacted by cancer. Di (middle of photo) is currently fighting gastric cancer. Well done Di and Natalie (and Connor).

101 not out

“Our” darling Doris – 101 not out – decided to get a tattoo and shave her head for cancer raising money along the way. Doris commands media attention when she decides to shave her head and found herself a social media sensation as well as making the nightly news on several channels!

A 30th Birthday present?

Being inspired by seeing the work that our transport2treatment program does in the Circular Head community, Tyrone shaved his head on this 30th birthday and raised $4,500 to support Tasmanians affected by cancer. What will he do for his 40th?!

Would you like to raise funds for Cancer?

There are so many different, fun, challenging or unique ways to raise money for Cancer Council Tasmania. By registering as a community fundraiser with us you can be sure your efforts truly help Tasmanians impacted by cancer. All funds raised here stay in Tasmania, for Tasmanians only. We make sure all money raised is allocated for maximum affect – whether it be in research, support services, awareness or prevention – the money is always well spent.

If you have an idea or would like an idea or some know how please visit doitforcancer.com.au and register your event. You’ll get an online fundraising page that you can use to tell your story and make your own. You’ll also have access to our fundraising experts, who can help every step of the way.
How about having a Dry July?

By going dry this July and fundraising on behalf of Cancer Council you’ll help continue to provide their vital 13 11 20 support service for all Australians affected by cancer. No one should have to face cancer alone.

From funding life-saving cancer research to delivering prevention programs, advocating for change and supporting Australian families affected by cancer, when they need it the most, every minute, every hour, every day Cancer Council striving towards our vision of cancer-free future.

It’s estimated that around three per cent of all cancers diagnosed in Australia each year are due to alcohol use. Go dry this July and reduce your cancer risk.

Create your own team by registering dryjuly.com/cancercouncil join or donate to our team (Cancer Council Tasmania’s Teetotallers) dryjuly.com/teams/cancer-council-tasmania-s-teetotallers

Dundee Penguin Trail

One of our board recently had the opportunity to see the original Maggie Centres in Scotland – the basis from which our own Tasmanian Support Centres are designed.

Cancer Council Tasmania’s Vice President, David Bowker was on holidays overseas and decided to pop in for a visit. The Maggie centre in Dundee opened 15 years ago and was designed by the world famous architect Frank Gehry who also designed the famous Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. It is very innovative and does not look at all dated. It is also only about half the size of the Launceston centre but has a very similar feel.

Note that Maggie Centres are a different organisation to the Cancer Council in the UK. More details at Maggie’s Dundee maggiescentres.org/our-centres/maggies-dundee/

Find Cancer Early

Cancer Council Tasmania is running a Find Cancer Early Project in the areas of Sorell, Dodges Ferry and Tasman Peninsula. The Project is based on a successful program, developed by Cancer Council WA, which recognised that people living in regional Australia are 20-30% more likely to die within 5 years of a cancer diagnosis than people living in a metropolitan area. Find Cancer Early (FCE) is a public health campaign which aims to reduce the disparity in cancer outcomes between metropolitan and regional Tasmanians.

The Find Cancer Early community education campaign aims to increase awareness of the early signs and symptoms of the five most common cancers, and encourages people to seek medical help if they notice any of the symptoms. Find Cancer Early also encourages people to participate in the national cancer screening programs for bowel cancer, breast cancer and cervical cancer. The Project Worker is visiting primary health practitioners in the area, provides up-to-date information and GP resources about the screening programs, and runs workshops with local community groups and carers. The Find Cancer Early Project is supported by the Tasmanian PHN (Primary Health Network) through the Australian Government’s PHN Program aided by resources generously provided by Cancer Council WA.
Centrelink program

Cancer Council’s Centrelink program is assisting many people access the full benefits of Centrelink. It runs in our three centres. Having the service available in our warm and personable support centres means grappling with financial benefits is much less stressful. The financial impact of cancer is significant for many Tasmanians and Cancer Council Tasmania is pleased to be collaborating with Centrelink to make the service more accessible for people affected by cancer.

Research shows over 200,000 cancer cases could be avoided

New Cancer Council Australia funded research has shown over 200,000 cancer cases could be avoided in Australia over the next 25 years if all Australian adults maintained a healthy weight and met the physical activity guidelines for cancer prevention.

Researchers from the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute found that if all Australian adults maintained a healthy weight, as many as 190,500 overweight/obesity-related cancers could be prevented over a 25-year period.

A further 19,200 inactivity-related cancers could also potentially be avoided if every Australian adult undertook at least five hours of moderate intensity physical activity per week.

Professor Sanchia Aranda, CEO Cancer Council Australia said, “Improving your diet can be as simple as eating more fruit, vegetables and whole grains. An easy measure is the 2 & 5 goal – two fruits and five serves of vegetables every day. When it comes to physical activity, if you can’t commit to five hours of physical activity per week it’s important to remember that every little bit counts so making an effort to be more active each day can still lead to better health.”

The cancers with the highest number of potentially avoidable cases in the study include postmenopausal breast, endometrium, bowel and kidney cancers.
What would we do without our Volunteers?

Not half as much as we do. So we were very happy to participate in National Volunteer Week (20–26 May), the annual celebration to acknowledge the generous contribution of our nation’s 6 million volunteers.

The theme this year was “Making a world of difference”. To acknowledge how much difference Tasmanian volunteers make to our business we provided morning teas to celebrate and thank these wonderful and generous people. **We really couldn’t do it without you. Thank you.**

Volunteering Tasmanian Awards

Against some hefty competition, we were pleased to see our transport2treatment program selected as a finalist in the 2019 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards, in the category of CatholicCare Tasmania Volunteer Program of the Year!

This is a testament to the dedication and commitment of all those who volunteer in this program.

Our wonderful team of around 70 volunteer drivers carefully drive Tasmanians who struggle to get to their cancer treatments. To date these wonderful volunteers have driven over half a million kilometres! Their time, care and commitment has meant we can offer this service to those in need.
Meredith Hepburn is looking out for Cancer Council’s future.

The bubbly retiree is an avid supporter, volunteer, committee member and well-loved friend to Cancer Council Tasmania (CCT). She describes her decision to leave a bequest in her will to CCT as a ‘No brainer’.

‘It’s a cause very close to my heart as two wonderful friends died too soon from cancer. How could you not?’

Meredith first became involved with CCT by joining in with Relay For Life in 2004 and has been doing it ever since.

“I heard about it whilst I was at work and I thought ‘Oh that sounds really fantastic!’ The next year I got a team going and I’ve done it ever since; walk around, raise money, have fun – it makes sense!”

For Meredith one thing led to another and soon she found herself getting involved in a whole range of Cancer Council volunteer activities.

“Once you do one thing, you do another. I volunteer because it’s fun and you meet really good people. I love how CCT treats its volunteers – they treat their volunteers the best of any organisation I’ve been involved with.

Volunteering is an active and pleasant way of fundraising and you get to meet people like Tasmanian Cricketer George Bailey! You chat to people and hear their stories. Sometimes you wonder how people keep on going… but they just do.”

On the subject of wills Meredith knows the value of leaving an impact for the future and ensuring her legacy goes exactly where she wants it to;

“I’ve always left bequests in my will. Cancer touches everyone so if you give to Cancer Council Tasmania you are giving to everyone. Even someone in my RFL team had cancer. It is so unfair and it is so random. As I’ve become involved with CCT I realized more and more that it is important. I’ve lost so many friends and CCT is a really good organisation. Leaving a Bequest is your opportunity to get done what you really want done. It is your chance to say this is what I want done with what I have. You can look after your family and then things that are important to you.”

But that’s all about the future. Today, Meredith is looking after family and friends and treasuring every moment of her life.

If you’d like to leave a gift in your will to Cancer Council Tasmania, please contact us today on 1300 65 65 85 or fill out the form below.

POST TO: Cancer Council Tasmania, ATT: Bequests, PO Box 147, Sandy Bay Tasmania 7006
Yes, I want to help Cancer Council Tasmania continue its great work.

**ONE-OFF DONATION**

☐ Yes, I’d like to make a donation of:

$ ____________________________

**OR**

**REGULAR GIVING**

There are many benefits to regular giving; the primary reason is it is convenient and:
- is a no hassle way to give you can set and forget
- you are sent a single receipt for taxation purposes
- helps Cancer Council Tasmania budget for services to clients
- the costs for Cancer Council Tasmania are dramatically reduced

☐ Yes, I’d like to make a regular donation of

$ ____________________________

☐ per week  ☐ per fortnight  ☐ per month

If you’d like to discuss this option confidentially please contact us on 03 6169 1900 or by emailing elarke@cancertas.org.au

**ALL DONATIONS OVER $2 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

☐ Please send me information on bequests for Cancer Council of Tasmania.

☐ Please send me information on Workplace Giving as I’d like to encourage my employer to set up this facility.

Please complete the following details:

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Please accept my donations/s in the form of:

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Expiry date  CCV

Name on card

Signature

Thanks for your interest and support. We truly appreciate any assistance we receive.

**POST TO:** Cancer Council Tasmania, PO Box 147, Sandy Bay Tasmania 7006

**OR YOU CAN DONATE ONLINE:** cancertas.org.au/donate