

## **Cancer Council Tasmania and COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

*Updated 25 March 2020*

In light of the current and changing situation regarding COVID-19, we wish to advise you of the steps that Cancer Council Tasmania (CCT) has taken to minimise the impact that the virus has on the health and wellbeing of our staff, volunteers and our clients.

We are monitoring the information provided by Australian Department of Health and the Tasmanian Department of Health - Public Health in regard to minimizing the spread of the coronavirus and have strategies to implement as recommendations come to hand.

We are adjusting our business practices and activities in the following ways.

### **Support Services**

- Our Support Centres are closed but our staff is still available. Please call 1300 65 65 85 to speak with them.
- We have cancelled all our support groups and complementary programs in our cancer support centres at Devonport, Launceston and Hobart.
- We have put our hospital visit program in Launceston on hold and are following up referrals with phone calls to clients.
- Our visits to the North West Cancer Centre and the Icon Cancer Centre have ceased for now and we have strengthened existing referral pathways to our Support teams.
- Clients have been advised to phone 131120 for information regarding COVID-19 and cancer.

### **Support Centres**

- We have a key focus on hygiene, hand washing and respiratory etiquette to minimise the spread of germs.
- There is hand sanitizer at all centres and offices.
- All functions/presentations/gatherings at our support centres have been cancelled.

**HOBART**  
15 Princes St  
Sandy Bay 7005  
03 6169 1900

**LAUNCESTON**  
69 Howick St  
Launceston 7250  
03 6779 1108

**DEVONPORT**  
Suite 2, 45 Best St  
Devonport 7310  
03 6419 4200

**T** 1300 656 585  
**E** [infotas@cancertas.org.au](mailto:infotas@cancertas.org.au)  
**W** [cancertas.org.au](http://cancertas.org.au)

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### Meetings/Presentations

- External meetings and presentations to the public are being minimized and reviewed on a case by case basis.
- Interstate travel is cancelled and intrastate travel minimized.
- Internal meetings, including Board meetings, are being held by teleconference or Skype.

### Staff

- All staff are continually reminded of the need to focus on hygiene and hand washing as per the government guidelines.
- Policies related to staff being ill, requiring to be isolated, needing carers leave or working from home have been advised to them.
- Working from home will be considered. Importantly there must be suitable working from home arrangements in place that protect the staff member and also ensure CCT does not breach its duty of care.

### Volunteers

- All volunteers at our support centres in Launceston and Hobart have been advised that they will not be required post Friday 20th March 2020.
- Volunteer transport drivers, if they still wish to assist, are required to ensure that the essential transport to treatment service continues and our clients are able to access their treatment appointments.

### Fundraising Activities

- Relay For Life events cancelled for Circular Head, North West, Launceston, Dorset and Hobart.
- Australia's Biggest Morning Tea (ABMT) will go ahead as planned across May and June. However, given the current health advice issued by the Australian Government regarding COVID-19, we are encouraging ABMT hosts who have organised events of 500+ attendees or indoor events of 100+ attendees, or anyone concerned about holding their event, to postpone until later in the year.
- Other CCT specific events are under review.

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### What hasn't changed

- At this stage, face to face support from our support centres, telephone support and other support services are still available.
- Our wig library, financial assistance and Seize the Day Educational Scholarship programs are unchanged
- The transport2treatment service in the three regions of the state is continuing with hygiene rules in place related to pre and post clients.
- Quit Tasmania services and programs are still in operation.
- Cancer prevention activities have been limited but work on other initiatives continues.
- Over the next few days and as the situation evolves, we will be releasing more information via our website and social media channels.

In the meantime if you have any questions, please reach out to us on 1300 65 65 85 or contact us at [reception@cancertas.org.au](mailto:reception@cancertas.org.au)

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