

## Building a Cancer Centre for Ballarat and the Grampians Region

Hello and welcome to the first newsletter for the Ballarat Regional Integrated Cancer Centre! It's wonderful to see construction of the centre is under way and we are excited about what the centre will mean for cancer patients, their families and carers in the Grampians Region.

Construction officially began on February 14, 2011 with the turning of a sod by member for Ballarat and Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing, Catherine King, and Victorian Health Minister David Davis. Mr Davis said more had to be done to ensure cancer survival rates of those living in rural and regional Victoria matched those of metropolitan residents.

Ms King said the Cancer Centre represented a joint effort from the entire region. "The Ballarat community, Ballarat Health Services, Austin Health, and St John of God Ballarat, all worked hard with the State government to submit an extremely strong application for funding.

"But most importantly I would like to recognise the strong contribution that the people of the Ballarat and surrounding regions have played in this project." The BRICC has been designed from the inside out by cancer survivors, clinicians and cancer services with patients and their wellbeing as the primary focus.

Work on the BRICC, situated at the Base Hospital site in Drummond St is progressing well with the concreting of the four radiotherapy bunkers already complete. It is anticipated that the BRICC will be complete by the end of 2012 with the first patients treated in the new centre in early 2013.



*Artist impression of BRICC, Drummond St*

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*"...I would like to recognise the strong contribution that the people of Ballarat and surrounding regions have played in this project..." Catherine King.*

## What does an integrated cancer centre provide?

The new facility will provide radiation, medical oncology and support services all in the one building. It is estimated 800 additional patients will receive care in Ballarat and fewer patients will have to travel to Melbourne for treatment.

This will replace the service currently provided at St John of God Hospital.

The Centre will include:

- Four radiation oncology bunkers, two linear accelerators and support facilities
- Sixteen day oncology chairs
- Consulting suite
- Satellite pharmacy
- Wellness Centre
- Facilities for clinical trials, research and education services

Costing \$55 million, the centre will focus on delivering the right treatment and support to patients, as early as possible in their cancer journey.

The building is designed to allow quick and efficient movement of patients and staff between departments.

The ground floor will be dedicated to radiotherapy and a wellness centre; the first floor will be used for chemotherapy and clinical trials; the second floor will be cancer services administration; the third and fourth floor hospital administration. This will replace the service currently provided at St. John of God Hospital.

*The existing Linear Accelerator at BAROC*



*"I believe that the Cancer Centre is going to be great for the region and cancer sufferers. There is no doubt it will provide a better environment for patients and staff which leads to a much happier treatment process."*

**Bill Kelly, living with cancer**

## What is a Wellness Centre?

An exciting part of the project includes the much anticipated Wellness Centre.

It aims to improve the quality of life of cancer patients and carers by providing the support they require to cope with the emotional and physical side effects of cancer diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

We anticipate that trained volunteers will provide information, links to other support groups, a 'listening ear' and therapies to compliment medical treatment.

This non-clinical environment will be a drop-in centre that cancer patients, their families and carers can access between hospital appointments.

We are looking into programs that balance the medical facets of care with spiritual and emotional aspects in order to better cope with the disease. Patients involved in wellness programs can learn new skills to help regain control of their lives, reduce feelings of isolation and restore hope, regardless of the stage of their disease.

## Our architects

The BRICC has been designed by Billard Leece Partnership (BLP), established in 1995.

BLP has an impressive track record in healthcare design that includes projects such as Melbourne's new Royal Children's Hospital.

BRICC will be a purpose-built ambulatory facility supporting a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach to patient care which minimises duplication and optimises client and family participation. Evidence-based and environmentally sustainable design principles have influenced the design.

The building entry is via a corridor which links the hospital to Sturt Street where there will be a new drop-off and entry canopy. The five-story building is set back from the historic Queen Victoria Building along Sturt Street with the space between the old and the new to be a central hub for the centre.

The interior of the BRICC will be a light, bright space where all departments of the building can be seen for ease of navigation.

The colours and materials used differ between patient (calm, natural and restful) and staff (vibrant and professional) areas, as well as the Wellness Centre in the historic building, which will be more like a comfortable coffee lounge than part of a hospital.

## Behind the scenes



## Consumer feedback

The staff at BRICC are working closely with Grampians Integrated Cancer Services (GICS) who are a cancer service improvement organisation covering the Grampians Region of Victoria.

Together we invited people who have been affected by cancer, to discuss suggestions relating to the new centre.

Topics covered included:

- Make waiting times for appointments more comfortable
- Requests for support groups for cancer patients and their carers / families
- Education and information both printed and on-line
- Advice on what financial assistance is available
- Design and fit-out suggestions
- Accredited volunteers for appropriate complementary therapies
- Exploring accommodation options for country patients

## Get in touch

The Ballarat Regional Integrated Cancer Centre is a partnership between Ballarat Health Services, Austin Health and St John of God Hospital Ballarat.

Tel: (03) 5320 6880  
 Fax: (03) 5320 3632  
 Email: [bricc@bhs.org.au](mailto:bricc@bhs.org.au)



Back, Simone Noelker, Kylie Vanderkley, Rebecca Watt, front, Leonie Lewis, Phoebe Coutts.

## Oh, what a night!

On October 14 the inaugural Ballarat Girls Night Out event was held at North Ballarat Sports Club. It was a sell-out with over 200 women helping to raise money for a Patient Wellbeing Fund at BRICC, which will be available to male and female cancer patients in the Ballarat and Grampians Region, so they can buy products or services to improve their quality of life.

Over 70 businesses were involved in the night and we would like to thank them all for their support. As a result of their help and those who attended we raised **\$23,800** in cash and services. We are most excited about this result!

We would like to thank major sponsors, North Ballarat Sports Club, Sixtyone Design, Natures Cargo, Ballarat Bizzi Beez, Anytime Fitness, Bio Pharmaceutical Solutions, John Murray & Assoc., UFS Dispensaries, Voyager, McDonalds, Treasury Wines Estate, and Coca Cola.

Last but not least, a big thank you to all the women who attended the evening - we loved having your company and we look forward to seeing all of you and more next year!

We would especially like to thank the BGNO committee, Simone Noelker, Kylie Vanderkley, Rebecca Watt, Leonie Lewis and Phoebe Coutts for making the night a great success!

It was a night of fun and dancing with music from REaL Sisters who made it to the top six in the 2010 season of X-Factor. There was a silent auction and door prizes, but the most part of the evening was catching up with girlfriends and celebrating friendship.

## TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

to the Ballarat Regional Integrated Cancer Centre



Please return this form to:  
Ballarat Health Services: PO Box 577, Ballarat Vic 3353  
Phone: 03 5320 4093 Fax: 03 5320 4828  
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