

the Daffodil

Edition 7

13 11 20

Here to help you find the answers

Accelerating Collaborative Cancer Research grants

Meet the new recipients

Tess' legacy lives on

Read a message from Tess' brother



**Cancer
Council**
Queensland



Here at Cancer Council Queensland, we believe making connections is a vital part of what we do. Connecting Queenslanders to our services, connecting people impacted with cancer to one another, and connecting you, our generous supporters, with the stories of those you're helping every day.

In this issue of The Daffodil, we're sharing stories of the people who facilitate these connections. We're also encouraging you to share your stories with us this World Cancer Day to highlight how our local community can be a part of a global movement connecting people from all over the world in our vision of a cancer free future.

As we move into a new year, let's remember to make connections that matter. I'd personally like to thank you for continuing to connect with our cause, as we strive to reduce the impact of cancer.

Chris McMillan,
Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Council Queensland

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World Cancer Day

Sam brave for her boys to the end

In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, we shared with you the story of Sam, a brave mum of two who was facing terminal cervical cancer. In the midst of her treatment, Sam was suddenly faced with the extra worries of the virus affecting her when she was already immunocompromised. And would she be able to travel and make memories with her sons in the time she had left?

Sadly, last October, Sam passed away, leaving behind her sons Jye and Levi and her extended family. In her last post on her blog about her cancer journey, Sam wrote:

'It's been a while since I've written.... In all honesty I have not felt the best. Since my last post I've started immunotherapy, stopped immunotherapy, had unexpected surgery and have restarted immunotherapy - I've been in and out of hospital and suffering daily pain.'

'Since being diagnosed this is the worst I have felt emotionally and physically to the point at times I've thought "this is it - this is leading to the end".'

'Sure I'm still smiling and laughing, but I have shed more tears than I wish to share.'

'It's not often I don't feel like writing, but I feel numb at times and my head so jumbled its blurring my thoughts and vision.'

'While I was in hospital, Jye asked me "Why is this happening to you mum?" with tears in his eyes and a frown on his face. I think of those words everyday and I hope one day I can give him an answer.'

Sam's family made the most of her last weeks, taking her on regular day trips out of palliative care and celebrating an early Christmas surrounded by family and friends. She received many messages of support from Cancer Council Queensland donors when we shared her story in 2020 and shared with us: 'It's made my heart skip a beat at the kindness and generosity of people that don't even know me.'

Thank you for sharing in Sam's journey and supporting the research that will see fewer lives like Sam's tragically lost to cancer.

13 11 20

**A cancer diagnosis can leave you with many questions.
Chris and the team are here to help you find the answers.**

Thanks to your support, we're able to keep vital cancer support and information services running when Queenslanders need them most. Our 13 11 20 Support and Information (CSI) service is available for all people living with cancer, their families, carers and friends, people wanting to reduce their cancer risk, teachers, students and healthcare professionals. Keep reading to hear all about this vital service from one of its longest-standing team members, Chris Sibthorpe.

How long have you worked for 13 11 20 and how would you describe your role?

I have worked as part of Cancer Council Queensland's CSI team for 20 years. Currently, I am working two days a week on our 13 11 20 Support and Information line, and the rest of the week at our Charles Wanstall Apex Lodge in Brisbane.

Whether it's face-to-face, over the phone, or via email and webchat, my role is to minimise the impact of cancer by providing information, emotional and practical support, and connecting people with appropriate services.

Why do you think 13 11 20 is such a vital service?

I once read that people need a witness to their life. I think this is what 13 11 20 offers people – the chance to share their story and receive an individualised and specific response when they need it most.

What does a typical day look like for you?

My day varies slightly on whether I'm working on 13 11 20 or at the lodge. If it's one of my 13 11 20 days, I sign into my computer and join the queue where calls and webchats come in. Typically, there is a lot of follow up work required after a call. This often includes emailing

the caller with various resources, information and links we discussed during the call. I'm also completing referrals to services like Cancer Counselling or the Wig and Turban Service. At our lodge, as well as providing face-to-face support, I also make sure I'm available to chat with guests and make them feel welcome, safe and supported while they're away from home.

What personal attributes are required to work for 13 11 20?

The most important attribute is the ability to listen and then respond appropriately to meet people's needs. Sometimes the most appropriate response is to just listen some more.

What did 13 11 20 learn from the pandemic?

We continued to operate uninterrupted during lockdown. The pandemic taught us that we can be agile and continue to offer the same support to people affected by cancer, regardless of other circumstances. We also learned how amazingly resilient people can be. Patients and family members were dealing with the many and varied stresses of dealing with cancer; and then they had to cope with COVID as well.

'The most important attribute is the ability to listen and then respond appropriately to meet people's needs'



'What I enjoy most about my role is the opportunity to make a positive contribution to people affected by cancer.'

Cancer research you make possible

Thanks to your incredible support, Cancer Council Queensland continues to fund more research than any other independent, community-based charity in Queensland. In 2021, we invested more than \$7 million in lifesaving research.



Cancer Council Queensland has announced the next round of Accelerating Collaborating Cancer Research (ACCR) Grants. Two Queensland-based cancer research projects will be awarded \$2 million each over the next four years.

Professor Amanda Ullman and Professor Kwun Fong, both from The University of Queensland were presented with the awards this month by Cancer Council Queensland's CEO Ms Chris McMillan.

'The successful grant recipients Professor Amanda Ullman and Professor Kwun Fong are at the forefront of cancer research. Their teams' research provides hope for the 30,000 Queenslanders diagnosed with cancer each year,' Ms McMillan said.

Professor Kwun Fong said that he felt very humbled and grateful to receive the grant.

'We are incredibly thankful to Cancer Council Queensland and the generous people who support them, which makes this award possible.'

'This vital support will help us accelerate our lung cancer screening and early detection research in order to save lives,' said Professor Fong.

The \$4 million award consists of each project receiving \$500,000 annually over four years, (comprising of \$350,000 per annum from Cancer Council Queensland and a \$150,000 per annum contribution from the Administering Institution of each recipient).

PROJECT ONE

Research Title: Lung Cancer Screening in Queensland

Lead Investigator: Professor Kwun Fong

Administering Institution: The University of Queensland

Professor Fong's team will undertake the first ever implementation research of feasibility and effectiveness of CT screening, in conjunction with smoking cessation, for detecting curable lung cancers in Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

'From this research, we will learn whether there is a place for mobile lung cancer screening for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities if the government decides to introduce a national lung cancer CT screening program for at-risk people. The research will also tell us if and how mobile screening may be effectively delivered for these communities,' said Professor Fong.

'Our clinical trial includes over 800 children from across Queensland, and is a collaboration involving clinicians, scientists from five hospitals and three universities. We will work together to identify if this new lock solution is effective, and if it is, we will implement it across healthcare,' said Professor Ullman.

Cancer Council Queensland looks forward to seeing the outcomes of Professors Fong's and Ullman's research projects over the next four years. We would also like to extend a massive thank you to all our supporters, fundraisers and donors who have helped make the ACCR grant scheme possible. Together, we are all working towards a cancer free future for all Queenslanders.

Cancer Council Queensland's ACCR grants aim to:

- Accelerate the translation of research findings into improved outcomes, clinical practice or health policy to improve the survival and wellbeing of cancer patients
- Stimulate innovative, collaborative cancer research in areas of need
- Develop the capacity of high-quality cancer research groups in Queensland.

Cancer Council Queensland is an independent, community-based charity, the achievements of which are made possible by the generosity of Queenslanders.

PROJECT TWO

Research Title: Preventing adverse events during paediatric cancer treatment: A multi-site hybrid randomised controlled trial of innovative catheter lock solutions

Lead Investigator: Professor Amanda Ullman

Administering Institution: The University of Queensland

Professor Ullman and team will undertake the world's first clinical trial of a central line lock (T-EDTA), that may prevent complications such as infections, blood clots and line blockage for children with cancer.

'With Queensland being the melanoma capital of the world, I want all Queenslanders to be aware and take protection against the sun.'



Tess' legacy lives on through sun safety messages

You may remember the story of Tess from our 2021 tax appeal. Tess tragically lost her life to melanoma when her daughter Mabel was only 10 months old. Shared with us by her brother Raphael, Tess' story inspired such incredible generosity in Queenslanders, raising an incredible \$636,000 for research like Professor Kiarash Khosrotehrani's melanoma project.

Mabel recently turned 10 and her family continues to keep Tess' memory alive for her.

'Tess certainly lives on through Mabel,' Raphael says.

'You can really see it in photos of when Mabel was three or four years old with a photo of Tess next to her at the same age. They have the same mannerisms and she's just as sharp as her mum. It really is a blessing every time you're with Mabel because you can see Tess directly through her.'

Raphael also knows the importance of Tess' story to spread the message of skin cancer prevention and early detection. 'With Queensland being the melanoma capital of the world, I want all Queenslanders to be aware and take protection against the sun,' he says.

'If you do notice a change to your skin, please go and get your skin checked. And when you do, make sure you share it with friends and family so it can start a conversation and others can get their skin checked too.'

To Cancer Council Queensland supporters who supported the 2021 tax appeal, Raphael has a message of thanks.

'It's with your support that those researchers are able to get that one step closer towards ultimately finding a cure for melanoma. Which, at the end of the day, is what will keep our loved ones with us.'

Follow the five steps of sun safety to protect your skin



SLIP
on a sun
protective shirt



SLOP
on SPF30+ or
higher sunscreen



SLAP
on a sun
protective hat



SEEK
shade



SLIDE
on sunglasses

Keeping Queenslanders safe at home

Queenslanders strongly support action to reduce smoke-drift in multi-unit housing.

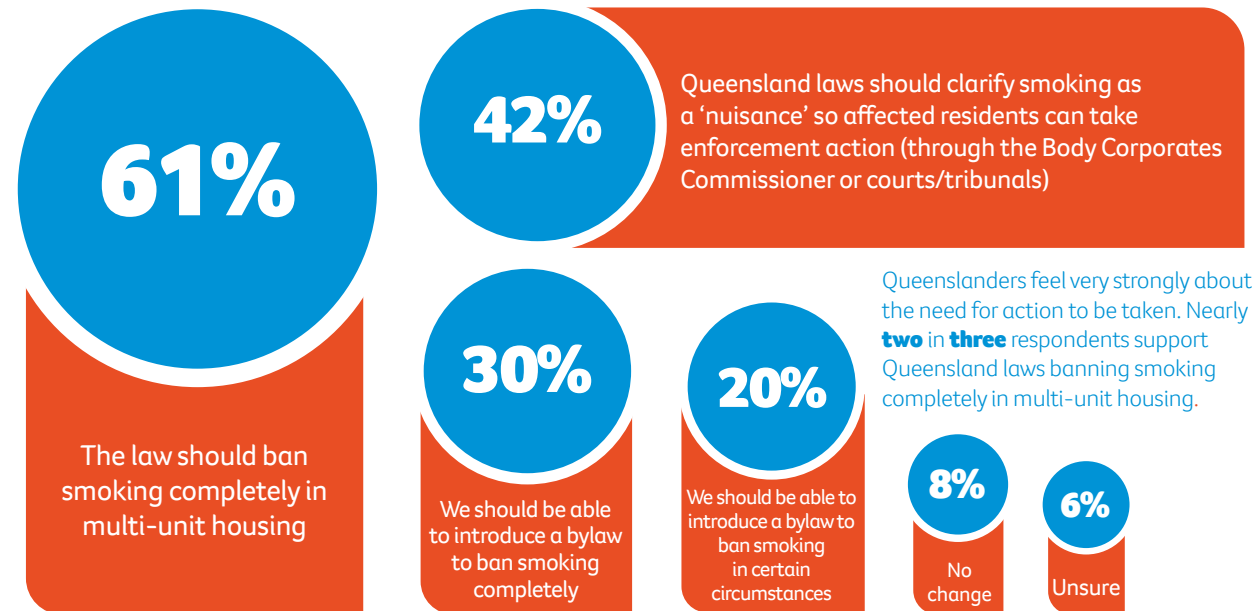
Cancer Council Queensland is committed to reducing the burden of cancer and helping the Queensland community live happy, healthy lives.

In 2021, Cancer Council Queensland conducted a community survey to explore Queenslanders' experiences with smoke-drift in multi-unit housing. The survey asked where people are exposed to smoke-drift and its impact; how they accessed services to resolve disputes with neighbours; and what more needs to be done to address this issue.

Your support helps fund important advocacy projects designed to keep the Queensland community safe.

What Queenslanders want done to tackle this issue

When asked what specific changes Queenslanders wanted to see, respondents indicated they supported a range of actions.



Cancer Council Queensland's Everyday Health Survey findings show overwhelming support for action to reduce smoke-drift in multi-unit housing, with 88% of respondents in agreement. Our Everyday Health Surveys are designed to give Queenslanders a voice and engage them in a conversation about the health issues that affect all members of the community. To read the full report click [here](#).

Thank you for your gift of hope

Your Will is the ultimate reflection of your values and makes a profound statement about your life. That's why we're incredibly grateful to our supporters who have chosen to leave a gift in their Will to Cancer Council Queensland.

Your vision and generosity will allow us to continue funding pioneering research, prevention and early detection programs, and support services that will assist Queenslanders affected by cancer for years to come. You will help save lives.

Free Will Service

Did you know that anyone who chooses to leave a gift in their Will to Cancer Council Queensland is eligible to use our Free Will Service? We provide referrals to qualified solicitors, who can help create your Will, or update your existing Will – for free.

For information visit cancerqld.org.au/bequests or contact Marianne Harth, Coordinator, Gifts in Wills, by calling (07) 4690 5802 or email marianneharth@cancerqld.org.au



Rebecca Bell (pictured), has kindly included a gift to Cancer Council Queensland in her Will.

Rebecca has been touched by cancer more than once in her life. She has been a cancer carer and support person since she was just seven years old and caring for her dad whilst he had prostate cancer. She is inspired by how much research has progressed since she lost a close high school friend to the disease more than 50 years ago.

'It just gets me excited to know that other people who are teenagers now have much more hope of survival and a good life to look forward to because of cancer research.'

Rebecca says, 'I'm not a wealthy woman, but I want to leave what I can to make life easier for people who are going through cancer' and she encourages others to do the same.

I AM AND I WILL

World Cancer Day 4 February 2022

Research shows that more than one third of cancer cases can be prevented and another third can be cured if detected early and treated properly. As a global community, we can save up to 3.7 million lives around the world each year by implementing strategies for prevention, early detection and treatment.

Held on 4 February each year, World Cancer Day is all about our collective commitment to act for powerful progress in reducing the global impact of cancer, under the theme 'I Am and I Will'.

The day is an initiative of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), a member-based organisation formed in 1933 in recognition of the need to share knowledge and expertise among cancer researchers around the globe. Cancer Council Queensland joined the UICC in 1968 and has previously been represented on the organisation's Board. Employees from Cancer Council Queensland's Viertel Cancer Research Centre, including Head of Research Professor Joanne Aitken, regularly present their research at UICC's annual World Cancer Congress, one of the world's leading platforms for research in cancer control. We proudly participate in international advocacy activities to ensure access to lifesaving cancer treatment and care is equal for all – no matter who you are or where you live.

This World Cancer Day, stand up and show your support for a cancer free world.



Cancerqld.org.au 13 11 20

We'd love to hear from you! If you have any feedback on this edition of *The Daffodil* or any topics you'd like to see in future editions, call Cancer Council Queensland on **1300 66 39 36** or email **supporterexperience@cancerqld.org.au**



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