

IMPACT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO DONORS





"Asking for help is not always an easy thing to do, it's so comforting to know I have someone to turn to when I need a little support"

Robyn, Patient

MISSION

To improve the quality of life and life expectancy for people with cancer, with priority to those lonely, isolated, or living alone.

VALUES

COMPASSION

Empathy, understanding and practical support.

WHOLISTIC

Committed to whole-person care, personal growth and empowerment.

INTEGRITY

Ensuring transparency, evidence-based practice and patient-centred outcomes.



IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

From the side effects of treatment, the emotional rollercoasters of diagnosis, and all the practical problems of getting to hospital for treatment. Anyone who has or knows someone with cancer also know the challenges they face.

With one in four people now living alone, many must face cancer alone and without support they need.

TOGETHERCARING

CanCare NAVIGATION SUPPORT

PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT 2023

This year the CanCare Navigation program continued to deliver a wide range of services and tasks, with staff and volunteers supporting cancer patients in their time of need.

In line with our scope these tasks were mainly in social support and improving the connectedness of patients to other community resources – be they transport, shopping for food and necessities, or helping to collect medications. Many tasks also involved applications to NDIS and My Aged Care. The NDIS provides only limited access for support for the patients we support, as cancer symptoms largely fall outside the scheme.

Towards the end of the year the number of patients referred for palliative support declined. Moving forward, we will continue work to improve our interface with the existing services in this specialised area to avoid duplication of resources and ensure that where patients' needs escalate to end-of-life care that the most suitable, effective, and compassionate care is available.

Thank you again to all our wonderful volunteers and alliedhealth staff, such as cancer nurses or social workers, and family and carer's whose referral of patients in need and partnering in support has enabled us to provide practical help, support, and companionship at time when it's most in need.

Melanie Gache Support Services Manager



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NAVIGATION IN ACTION

PATIENT

Jan is a 59-year-old woman diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She is single, financially disadvantaged, lives alone in a shared rental arrangement and is socially isolated with no access to transport. Jan's first language is Mandarin and she finds it difficult to gain knowledge of available resources. She has no internet access and struggles to use modern technology.

VOLUNTEER & EXPERIENCE

Ashley is self-employed, working flexible hours. She has been volunteering for several years. She has helped her patient Jan ensuring she has her groceries every week. She assists Jan to appointments at hospitals and takes her out on social outings such as walks along the beach and grabbing a hot cup of coffee. Ashley provides Jan with information about community services, public transport, library, public events, and all things related to the Australian culture.

BENEFITS

Jan has weekly access to grocery shopping including other shopping needs such as going to Bunnings. Jan now has weekly companionship, enjoying days out of her apartment exploring nature. With Ashley's help she has been able to access discounted public transport, enrolled in free English and computer course in her local library and is able to experience and feel more a part of Australian culture.

PATIENT

Joanne is a delightful lady that lives alone. She previously worked in community care, doing personal care and cleaning. Joanne was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Joanne's family live outside of Sydney, making it difficult to rely on them for support. Joanne wanted help with finding resources for gardening, cleaning, and general companionship. She wanted guidance in organising her medical appointments and support attending them.

VOLUNTEER & EXPERIENCE

BENEFITS

Kathy is a former employee in the pharmaceutical field, with a passion for volunteering. Kathy has supported Joanne by finding a cleaner and reducing Joanne's anxiety with home visits. Kathy also supported Joanne during her time in hospital and helped her source a handrail and ramp for her home. Kathy continues to provide companionship for Joanne with regular visits and outings to some of Joanne's favourite cafés. Kathy also provides transport to and from medical appointments when no other transport is available.

Joanne has been receiving regular home cleaning. She was confident going home after her discharge from the hospital knowing she had a ramp, making it accessible for her to stay at home instead of going into respite. Joanne is in contact with Kathy every week and has the peace of mind knowing her medical appointments are organised and she won't miss any of them. Joanne has had her beautiful garden maintained and feels a sense of joy having someone to go chat with regularly in her favourite cafés.

PATIENT

VOLUNTEER & EXPERIENCE

BENEFITS

Rochelle is a young 30-year-old currently living with her partner in a one-bedroom apartment. Rochelle was diagnosed with breast cancer only a few days after her 30th birthday. Her sister lives two hours away with her two young kids. Rochelle lives with her partner who is her main source of support. To lighten the burden on her partner and sister, Rochelle came to CanCare seeking some extra social support. Asma is a young 24-year-old student who also works part time in the medical field. She has been volunteering for a few years during her spare time. She has been a great form of social support to her patient Rochelle, arranging social outings and exploring different settings around Rochelle's new area. Asma arranged a fun paint and sip for Rochelle and her sister to enjoy a night out over the Christmas period. Rochelle now has extra support in place with Asma. Her social network has grown and feels more at ease knowing she does not need to solely rely on her sister and partner. She also feels like it has taken the burden from her partner and sister, giving them a piece of mind knowing that Rochelle has more support during one of the most difficult and challenging times in her life.

Asma and Rochelle at the Wellness Workshop

CanCare NAVIGATION 2023

Our incredible CanCare Navigators provide companionship and practical help to cancer patients and their carers. For those in need, finding support can be a difficult and overwhelming task. CanCare Navigators assist with access to crucial resources such as legal or financial help, transportation, community services and wellness education programs. With the help of local social workers, Navigators can also help patients arrange counselling and therapy, both of which are invaluable during such a physical and psychologically draining period.

Patients were referred from:

- St George Public Hospital & Cancer Clinic
- St George Private Hospital
- The Sutherland Hospital
- GenesisCare, Hurstville

This year, CanCare Navigators were able to assist cancer patients with:

- Arranging delivery of essential medications
- Completing tasks they would otherwise be unable to manage like grocery shopping and running errands
- Attending appointments, often accompanying them
- Organising home cleaning and gardening services
- Counselling/Therapy applications
- Centrelink applications for financial aid
- Provided companionship to patient living alone
- Support for a palliative patients' parents Visa extension
- Found bereavement support for a family in grief

"It's reassuring to have someone there who understands all these things or who can at least be a link between you and the doctors and the other medical staff. Sometimes when you're given a lot of instructions and especially, I think when you're living in a remote area, you're not within easy reach of the specialists."

> Mary, **Patient**

INSIGHTS IN SUPPORT

Afternoon tea on Friday's was always reserved for Tony and Verna (pictured). Their weekly catch-up over coffee and cake proved to be a highlight of the week for them both, a chance to swap stories and reminisce about 83-year-old Verna's lifetime of adventures. For CanCare volunteer Tony, retired manager and professional drummer, spending time with patients like Verna fuels his life-long love for people.

"It's in the joy of making others happy, seeing their faces light up when they see you, that I find my purpose."

Since 2017, Tony has given up his spare time to provide one-to-one support to six different individuals living with cancer. His support has ranged from things as simple as coffee and cake with verna to running errands for his less mobile patients like Mary or transporting patients like frank to appointments and even attending alongside them if they needed the extra support. "I just love people," says Tony. "When I was working, I had 20 staff and I enjoyed being around people of all ages and backgrounds, talking to them, hearing their stories. I was also in rock bands for years and that certainly makes you comfortable with getting out and about."

After retiring from work to care for his sister, Tony decided to do some volunteer work in his spare time. It was during a volunteer shift at St George Hospital that he learned about the CanCare Navigator program and decided that he could use his own experience with bladder cancer to help others.

"After having bladder cancer myself, I know what people are going through when those milestone scans are coming up. The CanCare environment is special, it's a place where people find solace, sharing stories and supporting one another. It's like family."

"It's in the joy of making others happy, seeing their faces light up when they see you, that I find my purpose."

Tony

WHO WE HELP SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH CANCER





TYPE OF CANCER:

- Breast cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Ovarian cancer
- Liver cancer

- Lung cancer
- Glioblastoma
- Bowel & rectal cancer
- Pancreatic cancer

ONE-TO-ONE CONTACT TIME:

743 hours

REGIONS:

St George & Sutherland Shire Sydney south-west region



TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Our recruitment of new volunteers continued to grow through the year, with those newly recruited representing a range of ages, skills, and cultural backgrounds. CanCare Navigation training has continued to be run both online and in-person.

END-OF-LIFE WORKSHOP

With 'top up' training running throughout the year, one of the new specialist workshops was on 'End of Life Issues'. While continuing to recruit and support new cohorts of volunteers, the addition of new training in end-of-life was able to be provided, through an innovative new workshop that combined several speakers in end-of-life issues.



The speakers sessions provided volunteers and carers with a range of insights into:

- Palliative-care support and nursing
- Supportive care, grief, denial & acceptance
- Mindfulness and communicating with family & friends
- Insights into legal such as estate planning, wills, and guardianships
- Advanced Care Directives
- Options in My Aged Care & residential care





Pictured left; Joanna McIlveen (SESLHD), Grief & Bereavement Coordinator

Run with the support of Sutherland Shire Council.





WELLNESS WORKSHOPS

As part of our commitment to holistic healing, PBCF ran two transformative wellness workshops in 2023. The workshops were created for cancer patients and their dedicated caregivers, aiming to enhance mental health and self-care. Three insightful guest speakers shared valuable tools and resources, fostering empowerment within the community.

The event covered essential aspects of health and wellbeing, offering practical insights into mind-body wellbeing when dealing with cancer. Breathwork sessions were incorporated to highlight the significance of mindfulness and stress reduction, while the inclusion of Pilates emphasized the importance of physical well-being. These workshops were able to educate and empower attendees to take a comprehensive approach to navigating their cancer journey with resilience and vitality.

We are excited to expand this aspect of our work in 2024.



CANCER RESEARCH ST GEORGE CANCER CENTRE



Throughout the year, critical research into cancer at the St George Clinical School (UNSW), under Associate Professor Yong Li continued to make important advances. With our support. research advanced our understanding of cancer metastases (spread) and new ways to slow the spread. Researchers also looked at new targeted treatments and the development of innovative biomarkers to detect cancer earlier.

New treatments will mean patients are more likely to live longer and with fewer side effects, with a more significant impact on cancer and with less distressing or less debilitating side-effects. New methods to identify bio-markers mean that cancer in the body that may otherwise go undetected can be found and treated earlier, with higher quality of life and better health outcomes.

PROGRESSING RESEARCH

SOME OF THE RESEARCH PUBLISHED WITH OUR SUPPORT:

Recent advances of small extracellular vesicle (EV) biomarkers in breast cancer diagnosis and prognosis. Yujin Lee, Jie Ni, Julia Beretov, Valerie C. Wasinger, Peter Graham and Yong Li* (2023)

Extracellular vesicles: the next generation of biomarkers for liquid biopsy-based prostate cancer diagnosis. Bairen Pang, Ying Zhu, Jie Ni, James Thompson, David Malouf, Joseph Bucci, Peter Graham, Yong Li (2020)

Activation of the elF2α/ATF4 axis drives triple-negative breast cancer radioresistance by promoting glutathione biosynthesis. Xupeng Bai, Jie Ni, Julia Beretov, Valerie C. Wasinger, Shanping Wang f, Ying Zhu, Peter Graham, Yong Li (2021)

THOC2 and THOC5 Regulate Stemness and Radioresistance in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer. Xupeng Bai, Jie Ni, Julia Beretov, Shanping Wang, Xingli Dong, Peter Graham, and Yong Li (2021)

Triple-negative breast cancer therapeutic resistance: Where is the Achilles' heel? Xupeng Baia, Jie Nia, Julia Beretov, Peter Graham, Yong Li (2020)



RESEARCH INSIGHTS

BREAST CANCER

Many researchers regard the current clinical tools for breast cancer diagnosis as insufficient. Performing a liquid biopsy of different bodily fluids is a minimally invasive strategy that provides a number of important benefits, as it's a real-time snapshot of tumour biomarkers for early diagnosis, any progression under active surveillance, and any post-treatment recurrence. Extracellular vesicles (EVs) are small, nano-sized structures that are released by cells into biological fluids. They contain proteins, nucleic acids and lipids, and they play play pivotal roles in the way cancer's change and spread throughout the body.

PROSTATE CANCER

The current gold standard for prostate cancer diagnosis is a template needle biopsy. However these often do not provide a true representation of the molecular profile. At present, the available biomarker blood tests have limited accuracy, and there is a growing demand for new diagnostic approaches to reduce the number of men with an abnormal PSA/ DRE who undergo invasive biopsy. A 'liquid biopsy' is a minimally invasive approach that has the potential to provide information and improve the accuracy of diagnosis. Extracellular vesicles (EVs) hold promise for the discovery of liquid biopsy-based biomarkers for prostate cancer diagnosis. A review of the research in our current approach to EV analysis and a summary of advances in liquid biopsy biomarkers for diagnosis provides us with an important advance in this promising area of prostate cancer research.



RESEARCH HOW EFFECTIVE IS NAVIGATION?

Funded by the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the NavKids2 Study completed this year. The study was a multi-centre, mixed methods, randomised controlled trial across 5 Australian sites, with an aim to determine the impact and possible benefits that a navigator 'intervention' might have on children and their caregivers. The study included input from allied-health specialists in social work, counselling, and occupational therapy, in support of the Navigator team. The PBCF Support Services Manager trained and supported each of the 5 Navigator's throughout the study. Results of the study showed that for participants' and caregivers, their self-rated health (SRH) was unchanged in the immediate and wait-listed groups at 6 months. For the caregivers, their views were illustrated over five themes: easing mental strain, facilitating care coordination, strengthening capacity to provide care, reinforcing care collaborations, and alleviating family tensions.



Caregivers in the study reported gaining skills and an improved ability to provide and access care.

The study's qualitative data showed many positive impacts of the program from the caregiver perspective, including guidance to improve parental self-efficacy, self-care, and self-advocacy. The outcomes suggest that Navigators are of most value:

- During stressful life events
- Helping to overcoming interruptions to care
- As a link to social services
- Fostering relationships between patients and providers

STUDY SITES

The Children's Hospital at Westmead Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne Queensland Children's Hospital, Brisbane Perth Children's Hospital

COMMUNITY SUPPORT





LIVING IN MEMORY MEMORIAL TREE PROGRAM

The CanCare's Memorial Tree program is run with the support of Georges River Council. Together with family, friends and their CanCare volunteer, the plantings mark of celebration of their life of our patient, to remember and acknowledge how privileged we were to know and support them.



IN-HOSPITAL SUPPORT

For those patients in hospital over Christmas, our volunteers deliver Christmas gift-packs, including items such as a blanket, water bottle, a sleep mask, and personal toiletries (toothpaste, after-shave, oils, ointments). Being stuck in a hospital over Christmas is the last place anyone wants to be. As well as missing all your family and friends, many cancer treatments like chemotherapy or radiation can have terrible side-effects.



- Patient Admissions Centre

MARKETING & SOCIAL MEDIA

In line with our commitment to spreading awareness and providing support for those who need it most, we have made noteworthy strides in expanding our social media presence and online platforms. First and foremost, we are excited to share the birth of our new, user-friendly website, which serves as an essential hub for information, resources, and connecting individuals within our community. This new website has been designed to ensure accessibility, ease of navigation, and enhanced engagement. We are proud to provide a seamless online experience that empowers visitors to learn about our initiatives and contribute in meaningful ways.



As well as growing our CanCare Facebook page community, this year has also seen us enter the wonderful world of Instagram, recognizing its popularity and impact as a platform for education and inspiration. Through our official Instagram account, we aim to connect with a wider audience, sharing powerful stories, insightful content, and promoting events and campaigns. By embracing this new medium, we are creating an inclusive space where supporters, patients, and caregivers can come together. Our commitment to innovation extends beyond our online platforms as 2023 saw the unveiling of a new look for PBCF. As part of our recent rebranding initiative, we have embraced bright and bold colours, a visual representation of the energy and determination fueling our organisation. This vibrant new identity serves as a reflection of our commitment to create impactful change as we embark on an exciting journey forward.

COMMUNITY PROMOTIONS





DIRECTOR'S REPORT

For the end of financial year 2023, we are pleased to report the continued growth and success of the Foundation's flagship CanCare Navigation program, supporting cancer patients and their carer's. The first half of this year saw the program fully recover to pre-COVID levels, with patients from south-east Sydney, St George and Sutherland Shire referred to us by SESLHD hospitals, clinics and allied-health staff of NSW Health and private operators.

Alongside this achievement was an increase in our support and funding to St George Cancer Centre & Clinical School (UNSW), and the invaluable research work and PhD students at the St George Cancer Centre.

The CanCare Navigation services focus on those most in need - those who are socially, culturally or in any way lonely or isolated. The year's intake of new volunteers and patients continues to reflect a culturally diverse population and with that a set of more specific needs. Throughout this report, the comments and feedback from our patients are testament to the commitment, compassion, dedication, and personal quality of our volunteers, and what they bring to others by giving their time to those most in need.

On behalf of the Board, we take this opportunity to thank our growing team of volunteers, our committed staff, and our invaluable donors and business supporters as we work together to bring a better quality of life to those most in need.

Reg Woodleigh Executive Director



Samantha Connor Director/ Secretary



ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

INCOME	2022-2023		2021-2021	
Customer sales and lottery	\$225,911	37%	\$662,582	44%
Donations and other income	\$386,873	63%	\$857,280	56%
Total income	\$612,784	100%	\$1,519,862	100%
EXPENSES				
Income generation	\$173,894	29%	\$183,699	24%
Administration and governance	\$29,617	5%	\$130,074	17%
Programs and services	\$379,020	62%	\$362,634	49%
Other expenses	\$22,393	4%	\$77,959	10%
Total expenses	\$604,924	100%	\$754,366	100%
PROFIT/ LOSS	\$(175,648)	` 	\$765,496	

Income generation

The costs essential to the day-to-day running of projects that raise funds such as the National Cancer lottery or finding new donors and supporters so our work can continue.

Administration

The costs that support our operations, such as banking donation payments (bank fees), receipting and insurance that looks after our volunteers. Other items include auditing and compliance fees that ensure transparency and good governance.

Programs and services

Funds that pay for the services to directly benefit patients. They include all the costs of training, supervising, and supporting our volunteers, and initiatives like the gifts-in-hospital, COVID-19 tablets, and any costs our volunteers incur while they are providing one-to-one support.

DIRECTORS



Reg Woodleigh BCom (UNSW), FAMI

With a background in corporate and nongovernment sectors, Reg has extensive experience in marketing, IT, finance, and community development in the environment, wildlife, health, and youthservices sectors.



Samantha Connor B. Human Movement, B. Education, Dip. Business & Sports

With over 20 years' experience in the sport, recreation, and fitness industries, Samantha brings expertise in project management, the management of fitness and recreation centres and working with volunteers and local communities to achieve positive social outcomes.



Philip Brunner Legal Director

Phil is an experienced advisor to employees on workplace relations issues including the development of management contracts, collective agreements, discrimination, and disciplinary issues.



Warren Johnson BA, GAICD

For most of his career Warren has operated at CEO level in the notfor-profit sector. As a chief executive, he has driven growth through the development of innovative, evidencebased programs and revenue streams across government grants, corporate partnerships, and fundraising. PATRON



Prof. Ian Webster AO

Physician and Emeritus Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW

With a deep commitment to social justice, lan was foundation Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine at the University of NSW and held appointments at Monash, Sheffield, and Sydney University. He also played a key role in developing new clinics and community health services for the homeless, indigenous, poor and drug or alcohol affected. lan's research and publications have been in medicine, community health, drug and alcohol, mental health, homelessness, and issues of social justice. In 1995 he was appointed as an Officer to the Order of Australia.

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REFERRAL CENTRES

NSW Health:

St George Hospital & Cancer Centre The Sutherland Hospital St George Private Hospital GenesisCare, Hurstville

Find online at:

pbcf.org.au

facebook.com/cancareaustralia

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible

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