

Media Release



3 March 2011

Hunter Cancer Researchers thank Cessnock community

Calvary Mater Newcastle (CMN) doctors and researchers will recognise the outstanding fundraising efforts of the Coalfields Cancer Support Group (CCSG) over the last ten years, with a presentation at Cessnock City Council Chamber on **Monday 7 March 2011 at 10am**.

The Coalfields and broader Cessnock community have been a significant contributor to cancer research undertaken at the hospital, with over \$350,000 being donated over a ten year period.

General Manager Colin Osborne Calvary Mater Newcastle said the Coalfields Cancer Support Group had been integral to enabling researchers to realise their potential and further research capability at the hospital.

"Calvary Mater Newcastle is a prominent research facility in our region with a special focus on cancer research, and Coalfields Cancer Support Group has been instrumental in providing us with grants for research projects and equipment that we would have otherwise gone without," said Mr Osborne.

While the Group has had their own health setbacks, it hasn't slowed them down or deterred them from raising funds for the hospital, which Cessnock City Council Mayor Councillor Alison Davey said is testament to a strong community spirit.

"The Cessnock community has been very supportive of the Coalfields Cancer Support Group over the last decade, and it is great to see such an active group of senior citizens working hard for such an important regional cause," Cr Davey said.

One of the most significant pieces of equipment bought with the CCSG grants has been a Flow Cytometer worth \$170,000, to which the Coalfields contributed \$79,000 in 2005. This is a high tech piece of equipment that is continually used by many researchers and has enabled the Mater to greatly progress and expand its research capabilities.

Without the generous Cessnock community donations through shopping centre raffles, bus trips and events in the area, Mater researchers may not have been able to progress their vital research nor have access to such leading edge research equipment, making donations from groups like CCSG so very important.

The Coalfields Cancer Support Group will be recognised by Dr Lisa Lincz, Chair of the CMN Research Committee, Cessnock City Council Mayor, Cr Alison Davey and Councillors at the special morning tea.

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Media information: Media are welcome to attend.

- Opportunities for interview with Dr Lisa Lincz, Mayor Cr Alison Davey and General Manager Colin Osborne are available.
- Photos of the Flow Cytometer are also attached for your use. Please call for more information.

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