

Professor Michael Boyer's Message

Welcome to 2010. As the year commences I have been reflecting on the events that have occurred over the course of the past year. In April, Lifeshouse at RPA came into being, with the Prime Minister launching our new name and logo. The task faced by Lifeshouse is a large one: to create a truly integrated cancer centre, which provides holistic care, focuses on the needs of patients and their families and conducts cutting edge research. Fortunately we have a dedicated and enthusiastic team working on the project. We also have the backing of people like you who provide both encouragement as well as financial support. We are grateful for both, but as always, can do with more!

In addition to building the cancer centre, Lifeshouse has taken over the role of supporting the activities of the Sydney Cancer Centre. Over the next three years whilst our new organisation and facilities are being built, we will treat several thousand patients newly diagnosed with cancer. All of these people need and deserve the best possible care, and donations that are made to Lifeshouse will help to make this possible. During the course of 2009 over \$673,000 has been provided to the Centre to help make the journey of our patients just that little bit easier and more comfortable.

Some examples of activities that have been supported by these funds include Bereavement Counselling and Support, the Cancer Information and Support Centre, salaries for a Clinical Nurse Consultant and Care Coordinators, the Volunteer Program, Patient Hardship Support, medical equipment, GP education and a Telemedicine and Outreach Program. Your donations have also helped to fund research programs in areas as diverse as the impact of exercise on cancer patients to Online Oncology Research and Clinical Information Project and a Clinical Data Registry Project.

2009 was marked by great sadness, with the death of Chris O'Brien in June. Chris made an enormous contribution to the treatment of cancer in Australia, both through his work as a head and neck surgeon and, following his own diagnosis with cancer, as an advocate for the creation of improved cancer facilities. Chris' contributions and life were remembered at a memorial dinner, held in November when family and friends gathered in the Great Hall of the University of Sydney. I was pleased to be able to announce on that night that Lifeshouse was establishing the Chris O'Brien Visiting Professorship, which will bring leading international and Australian clinicians and scientists to Lifeshouse in order to share their knowledge with us.

On behalf of the staff and patients of the Sydney Cancer Centre, I would like to express my gratitude for the support we have received over the past year. Your donations have allowed us to make a real difference to those fighting cancer. I look forward to your continued support, and extend my best wishes for 2010.