



CEO Message
Tim Dugan

It seems hard to believe that we are at the start of another year. 2009 was a year marked by events of enormous importance to Lifeshouse at RPA. The year began following on from the announcement by the NSW Premier in December 2008, that the State had approved our business plan, and would provide support for the Lifeshouse project in the form of access to land and equipment. This resulted in an ongoing series of negotiations through the course of the year to finalise the many details that were required in order for the project to progress.

Then, on 17th April, the Lifeshouse name and logo were formally launched, with the Prime Minister providing the welcome news that the Federal Government had tripled its contribution towards the project to a total of \$150m. The excitement of this news was soon overshadowed by the sadness of Chris O'Brien's death on 4th June, and the subsequent state funeral. Although this was a difficult time for all who knew him, and especially for his family, this made everyone all the more determined to bring Lifeshouse to reality.

By mid-September, two other key events took place: the signing of the Commonwealth Funding Agreement, which provides the bulk of the funds for the construction of Lifeshouse, and the signing of the Heads of Agreement with NSW Health, which set the framework for all remaining agreements with the NSW Health system.

With these agreements completed, the Lifeshouse offices were established in temporary construction sheds located in the car park at the rear of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital! Since then, things have continued to move rapidly. Capital Insight has been appointed as project manager, and on 18th November, Rice Daubney was appointed as architect for the project. December 22nd represented a significant milestone in the journey of Lifeshouse - the vision of Prof. Chris O'Brien when the Prime Minister, the NSW Premier and Gail O'Brien turned the first sod of soil to mark the commencement of construction of Lifeshouse at RPA. The Chris O'Brien Cancer Centre.

As I write this we are only days away from seeing the first physical signs of the project: the erection of hoarding around the site in preparation for the commencement of demolition.

The path ahead is an exciting one. By the end of this year construction will have commenced, and in three years Lifeshouse will be ready to open its doors. There is still much to do to create a new organisation that will deliver uncompromising care to our patients and contribute to the fight against cancer by fully integrating research into clinical care. The achievements of this year and the planning for the future would not have been possible without the help of our many supporters and benefactors, along with our tremendous staff. I'd like to express my deep gratitude to them all and wish everyone the best for 2010.