

Hawkesbury Living Cancer Trust – 2016 Annual Report

The Richmond Club Board of Directors and CEO had a vision in 2008 to develop oncology and chemotherapy services in the region after directly experiencing the difficulties of travelling for treatment, and after consulting with members and the community discovering a real need for improved health infrastructure.

To date, the Trust has overseen more than \$2.3million of charitable donations, with the state government also contributing \$100,000 worth of funds.

Richmond Club, as the Trust appointer, still has an ongoing and vital role to play in the delivery of oncology services to the Hawkesbury, as the finer details of the service are agreed and construction begins. In August 2015, it was announced that the ownership of Hawkesbury District Hospital would be transferred to St John of God, meaning that negotiations would have to continue with a new party.

In 2016, the oncology wing of the Hawkesbury Hospital was constructed and began sourcing and training staff in anticipation of its opening late in the year. The Cancer Trust have continued to play an active role throughout this process, establishing care packs for patients utilising the service, which will be named the Hawkesbury Living Cancer Trust Chemotherapy Unit.

Timeline:

2010: Richmond Club board approved Trust structure and members fundraising coordinated under charitable status of Hawkesbury Living.

Trust explored establishing a multidisciplinary service and specialist centre at Old Hawkesbury Hospital site Windsor, after discussions with Nepean Health.

2012: Kable family pledge \$1million to the Trust.

To date the Trust has overseen \$2.3million of charitable donations from local community.

2013: Catholic Healthcare announced via media it will establish an oncology unit at Hawkesbury District Hospital.

Trust forced to abandon its tender process for oncology and infusion centre, two chemotherapy centres not needed in same district, and works with Catholic Healthcare and Nepean and Blue Mountains Health District (NBMHD).

2014: Trust asked to fund the Hawkesbury hospital satellite site. Trust works with NBMHD in multistage plan to ensure as many services are provided as possible as per Trust's original vision for facility.

Stage 1, \$550,000 of Trust charitable funds used to pay for fit-out of the unit and equipment to run unit inside Hawkesbury hospital. Trust would be responsible for the shortfalls for a number of years.

Stage 2, Trust works with area health service to assist funding of ancillary services including health workers, counsellors and allied health professionals.

Trust negotiates the final plans for the unit to be developed with recognition for the Trust and fundraising it completed on behalf of the community.

NWAR funding announced.

2015: Official announcement of the Hawkesbury Living Cancer Trust Chemotherapy unit at Hawkesbury Hospital with benefactors, Trustees, NBMDHS and Catholic Health Care.

Hawkesbury Hospital transfers ownership from Catholic Health Care to St John of God.

2016: Construction begins on the Hawkesbury Living Cancer Trust Chemotherapy Unit at Hawkesbury Hospital, with an official opening date scheduled for late 2016.