



Anti-Cancer Council

NUMBER 153 WINTER 1995

ERA ENDS for cancer parliament

The Anti-Cancer Council has initiated Victoria's first study into the development of genetic testing and counselling across the state. The study, which has the support of the Victorian Government, aims to determine the level of genetic testing and associated counselling currently occurring, and from this, make recommendations about the future direction of genetic testing.

The study has been spearheaded by the Genetics Advisory Committee of the Anti-Cancer Council's Victorian Cooperative Oncology Group (VCOG), under the leadership of Professor Richard Lovell.

Prof Lovell retired as Executive Secretary of VCOG in June, after 13 years with the Anti-Cancer Council. He believes this study has been a major achievement of his final year with the Anti-Cancer Council.

In the past year Prof Lovell has also been instrumental in the establishment of the Urological Study Committee and the reconvening of the Lung Study Committee.

Prof Lovell describes VCOG as "Victoria's Cancer Parliament" because it provides a forum for leading researchers and clinicians from various institutions to examine issues relating to cancer.

These discussions and debates lead to the establishment of best practice guidelines for clinicians, involvement in clinical trials and an exchange of vital treatment trend information.

The Anti-Cancer Council established VCOG in 1976 and since that time breast, gastrointestinal, endometrial, gynaecological, palliative medicine, lung, urological and genetics advisory committees have been established.

"One of the great things about VCOG is the bringing together of experts on neutral territory to try and improve the lives of people with cancer," Prof Lovell said.

Prof Lovell said the involvement of Victorian women in international breast

cancer trials illustrated the work of VCOG. The Breast Study Committee has participated in international breast trials, studying the effectiveness of new treatments, for more than 15 years. Victorian women represent 11% of the total number of patients entered in these trials worldwide, a contribution which represents half of the total number of participants from Australia and New Zealand.



Professor Lovell

In the past decade VCOG has played a major role in:

- The setting up of the Mammographic Screening Program in Victoria.
- Design and involvement in national and international clinical trials.
- Setting up and management of the Familial Adenomatous Polyposis Register.
- Assisting in the development of policy on unconventional treatments and cancer support groups.
- Carrying out of two surveys of surgeons on the management of primary operable breast cancer, in collaboration with the Anti-Cancer Council's Behavioural Research Centre and Cancer Epidemiology Centre.
- Conducting a survey of surgeons on the investigation, follow-up and recurrence after resection of colorectal cancer, in collaboration with the Anti-Cancer Council's Cancer Epidemiology Centre.
- Assisted the Education Unit with the production of many information booklets, including ovarian cancer, cervical cancer and hormone replacement for women with breast cancer booklets last year.
- Developing, in conjunction with the Cancer Registry, a survey to determine the current management of lung cancer.

Professor Robert Burton, who will take over as Director of the Anti-Cancer Council in December this year, will also hold the position of Executive Secretary of VCOG.



Dr Ismail Kola

GENE LINK to children's cancer

Melbourne cancer researcher Dr Ismail Kola and his team, funded with \$150,000 from the Anti-Cancer Council, are studying a genetic link to two forms of cancer particularly common in children.

Ewing's Sarcoma, a children's bone tumour cancer, and Acute Myeloid Leukaemia, a leukaemia with a high incidence among Down's Syndrome children, have been linked to a gene which controls the activity of other genes in our body.

Dr Kola, from Monash University, said the research showed that a disruption or over-development of the gene may be linked to the incidence of these two cancers.

Diagnosis of Ewing's Sarcoma and Acute Myeloid Leukaemia is difficult because both are similar to other cancers, making testing a lengthy process.

Ewing's Sarcoma is the most common bone malignancy in Victorian children, accounting for 55% of bone cancers. One in every 6000 children under 14, and one in every 3000 adults, develop the cancers.

Dr Kola has been funded over three years and will now work to establish whether the presence of this gene actually predisposes children to the development of these cancers.

"We know there is a link between the gene and the cancers, but now we have to investigate whether this malfunctioning gene is actually responsible for the tumours," Dr Kola said.

"The important thing is that the earlier you diagnose, the better the prognosis for the person and the more effective treatment is likely to be," he added.



WORLD CONFERENCE

attracts top speakers

The first international World Conference for Cancer Organisations, to be held from 4-7 March 1996 in Melbourne, has attracted its first major sponsor. Leading insurers CE Heath International Holdings Ltd have donated \$50,000 to the running of the conference which is expected to attract many hundreds of guests from around the world.

The conference, hosted by the Anti-Cancer Council and auspiced by the International Union Against Cancer, will set the cancer control agenda as we approach the next millennium.

The Victorian Health Minister, Mrs Tehan, sees the conference as a way of bringing the best brains together to

set directions for the future of cancer control. The Anti-Cancer Council has been negotiating with Mrs Tehan's department for funding and we are hopeful of receiving major government sponsorship.

Donors have also responded generously to our plea for help in the last edition of Victorian Cancer News, by offering to act as hosts to guests. We are now able to accommodate about 100 guests. Anyone who would like to accommodate a guest or a couple, for five nights during the conference, please contact Dr David Hill at the Anti-Cancer Council on (03) 9279 1181.

The conference agenda and the plenary sessions are currently being arranged. World experts in cancer are in demand but we have managed to secure some excellent speakers, some of whom will also run workshops.

Speakers confirmed to date for the plenary lectures are:

DAY ONE

Theme: Foundations of the Cancer Agenda.

Speakers: Professor Donald Metcalf and Dr Bruce Armstrong, both from Australia. Most of you will be familiar with Professor Metcalf; through your support the Anti-Cancer Council has funded his work at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for more than 25 years.

DAY TWO

Theme: Setting the New Cancer Agenda.

Speakers: Dr David Beatty (Canada), Dr Harmon Eyre (USA) and Ms Dorothy Lamont (Canada).

DAY THREE

Theme: Influencing the Cancer Agenda.

Speakers: Ms Helene Brown (USA) and Mr Michael Daube (Australia).

DAY FOUR

Theme: Implementing the Cancer Agenda

Speakers: Dr John Seffrin (USA) and Dr Donald Iverson (Canada) and Dr George Ziant (Belgium).

QUIT farewells Michelle Scollo

After more than seven years as Quit's Executive Director, Michelle Scollo is moving on to a new challenge. Ms Scollo is taking up a position as Director of the Health Division at Deakin Australia.

Ms Scollo is well known for her innovative team management, her dedication to tobacco control, her thoroughness, her political nous and readily available friendly advice on many issues.

Ms Scollo's move comes at an interesting stage in tobacco control. The 1995 Quit Campaign was one of the most successful with thousands of callers contacting the Quitline. In addition, there has been a huge response to both the John Cleese television commercial and John Elliott radio commercials. A strong trend is emerging that smokers and Victorians generally see Quit as an organisation which helps smokers and is not in the business



of making smokers outcasts.

April saw the release of Strategy in Youth Smoking which identified that smoking rates among young

Victorians are not generally decreasing but are increasing in some age groups. The strategy sets out key components which will help tackle this and has the issue of product placement in movies and in media in its sights.

This has set the scene for a new television commercial to be screened later this year targeting young smokers. The commercial is supported by a series of new resources for young people.

Ms Scollo came to Quit in 1988 when there was a staff of six with three administration assistants. She leaves in 1995 when there is a staff of 21, a budget of \$2.2 million and a positive public profile of which she should be proud. Goodbye and good luck Michelle.

New look for Victorian Cancer News

Regular readers of Victorian Cancer News will have noticed that the cover of this issue has a new look. The Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria is continually updating and improving its printed resources and this newsletter has been regularly undergoing modifications, although most are not as obvious as a change to the front page.

Victorian Cancer News is a major means of communicating with you, our donors and supporters. Each issue now contains a range of news, information, research updates, and fundraising and event details. The next issue of Victorian Cancer News will be published at the end of September.

DON'T RISK YOUR SKIN in the sun or the snow

Skin that always burns first before tanning is five times more likely to develop skin cancer than skin which tans more easily, according to the latest edition of Canstat, produced by the Anti-Cancer Council's Cancer Epidemiology Centre.

"The vast majority of people in the high-risk category are Australian born people who combine a fair skin type with high childhood exposure to the sun," explained Craig Sinclair, manager of the Anti-Cancer Council's SunSmart campaign.

Each year more than 30,000 skin cancers are treated in Victoria at a massive cost of \$100 million. Skin cancer accounts for about half of all cancers diagnosed in the State, while Australia leads the world in skin cancer incidence.

Malignant melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer is the fifth most

common cancer in men and third in women.

About 1000 Australians die each year from skin cancer although early detection could prevent most deaths.

Mr Sinclair said that while all forms of skin cancer are on the rise (there has been a 19% increase in non-melanoma skin cancers), deaths from skin cancer have stabilised, partly because of early detection and treatment.

Compared with some other countries, Australian survival rates from melanoma are generally higher than anywhere in the world. This is believed to be in part due to early detection, the majority of melanomas diagnosed in Australia are less than 1.5mm thick, with women showing slightly better survival rates than men.

During the SunSmart campaign period, the incidence of reported skin cancers increased, indicating that

people are taking notice of advice to monitor their skin condition and seeing their doctor whenever they notice anything suspicious.

The SunSmart team continues its activities over the winter period, targeting people headed for the ski slopes during the snow season.

With the snow providing a perfect reflective surface for the sun's ultra-violet (UV) rays, skiers and visitors to the snowfields risk sun damage to the eyes and skin. The risk of skin cancer is actually higher on a mountain slope than at sea level because the air is thinner and there is less atmosphere to filter out UV rays.

Advice for people planning snow trips is essentially the same as for summer - remember to use SPF 15+ sunscreen on exposed skin and reapply it regularly, and wear a hat and sunglasses which meet the Australian Standard AS-1067 (check the label before you buy).

Dear Doreen



Doreen Akkerman, Manager of the Cancer Information Service, answers your questions.

Q. I have been reading in the papers lately about drugs being available in clinical trials. What are clinical trials?

A. Randomised controlled clinical trials are a very important part of cancer research and the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria, through the Victorian Cooperative Oncology Group and the Medical and Scientific Research Committee, has funded a large part of this research.

Cancer doctors (oncologists) are continually looking for new treatments for cancer. If early work suggests that a new treatment may be more effective than one that is currently being used, a clinical trial will be carried out to compare the new treatment with the current one. So clinical trials do

not only test drugs, they may deal with new treatments involving surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, biological therapy or a combination of one or more therapies.

Cancer clinical trials have two broad objectives: to identify promising treatments and to determine whether such treatments reduce morbidity (reduced quality of life) and mortality (death). Standard treatments offered today are the result of clinical trials which took place in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Q. What is randomisation?

A. In order to prevent bias, patients are randomly selected to be in either a group trialing a new drug or treatment, or one receiving a standard treatment. Neither the doctor nor the patient is able to choose which group they want to be in. The results of one group are then compared with the other.

Q. What safeguards does a participant have?

A. Ethics committees approve treatment protocols and patients are fully informed of the aims of the trial, the treatment program, possible side effects, their rights and people to contact if they have further questions.

Not everyone participating in a particular trial will benefit directly from the

findings of that trial. This is fully explained before the patient enters the trial and patients are required to sign an informed consent form. During a trial, results are monitored and if a treatment is found to be harmful or not effective, the trial is stopped. Patients may also stop participating at any time during the trial if they want to.

Q. How does someone get into a clinical trial?

A. Every clinical trial is designed to answer a set of research questions and people chosen to participate must fit eligibility criteria. There are many clinical trials taking place in hospitals in Victoria, some of which are part of large national or international trials. Even if patients receive the standard treatment, many cancer doctors believe patients benefit from the careful supervision and attention to detail that is essential for participants in clinical trials. If you are interested in taking part in clinical trials, discuss this with your doctor.

If you have any questions, please write to "Dear Doreen", Cancer Information Service, Anti-Cancer Council, 1 Rathdowne Street, Carlton South, Victoria 3053.

Doreen Akkerman is the Helen M Schutt Trust Fellow.



Take part in **DAFFODIL DAY**

The Anti-Cancer Council will hold Daffodil Day on Friday 18 August this year and we

hope that every Victorian will wear a daffodil to support the day and help raise money for cancer research and education.

The daffodil is the international symbol of hope for all touched by cancer and on Daffodil Day we will focus on the fact that 50% of Australian cancer patients now recover. This is due to the steady advances which have been made by the Anti-Cancer Council and other cancer control organisations. Advances in early detection, treatments, surgery, clinical and medical research and other fields of endeavour have brought hope to those with cancer and many more will be helped in the future.

Give a few hours of your time

We need supporters who are willing to give a few hours of their time on Friday and Saturday August 18 and 19 to sell daffodils in their local shopping centre. (At Chadstone Shopping Centre we will be selling on Thursday as well). In 1994 we had volunteers in 145 locations in city and country areas – this year we hope to bring Daffodil Day to many more locations. Permission has already been received for most shopping centres and all we need now is the people to work in them.

Order a counter sales box

Don't worry if you don't have time to give, simply order a counter sales box filled with silk flowers, badges and other fundraising items. Offer them to friends and colleagues in your business, canteen, school, community or sports group and then send the funds and unsold items back to us. There is no pressure to 'sell' the tokens which range in price

from \$2 to \$5, just place the box in a safe area and people will drop their donation into the honesty box and choose their item.

You can obtain daffodils on Daffodil Day from the following outlets: Coles Supermarkets are selling fresh flowers; Amcal Chemists, Kmart Stores, Medibank Private (Medicare) outlets, Newspower Newsagencies, Australian Geographic stores and St George Bank branches are all selling silk flowers and badges.

There will also be an insert in the Sunday Herald-Sun on 13 August which will feature a press-out daffodil for you to wear and which will enable you to send in a donation in the envelope provided.

Events in Daffodil Week 14 - 20 August

On Monday 14 August there will be a launch of a week of festivities. The launch will be held at the Australia On Collins Shopping Complex in the city and will be sponsored by the shopping centre and Novotel Melbourne On Collins Hotel. The launch will be combined with the presentation of the 'Sharing Hope' Awards in Poetry, Prose and Art in which people affected by cancer share their positive messages (see the news page for more details).

Other events in the week include: The Power of the Flower Ball at Southgate on Daffodil Day, the Daffodil and Choral Festival at St Andrews Church in Brighton in conjunction with the Daffodil Society, and the Daffodil Day football match between Carlton and North Melbourne at Optus Oval on Saturday 19 August.

We hope to raise \$500,000 in Victoria this year but we urgently need your help. Whatever support you can give will be appreciated. Call the Special Events Team on (03) 9279 1226/1228 to register or for further information.

Screen legends in new charity movie

Our next charity movie preview is Johnny Depps' latest film, Don Juan de Marco on 24 July at 6.30 pm. The film also stars screen heroes Marlon Brando and Faye Dunaway and is based on the legendary figure, Don Juan.

The film will screen at the Village Rivoli Cinema, 200 Camberwell Rd Camberwell, with car parking available opposite the cinema. Tickets are \$10 each and bookings can be made by calling Cate or Clare at the Anti-Cancer Council on (03) 9279 1138. Our previews have proven very popular so don't delay in booking your tickets and bring along a few friends.

The film has once again been generously donated by Village Roadshow and all proceeds from the event will go to our education and research programs.

Shop News

The Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria has just released a stunning new range of Christmas cards, gift wraps, stationery sets and other exciting gift ideas. Please look through the insert in this edition of Victorian Cancer News and get your order in early.

This range of products will also be available from our Country Volunteer Units. Telephone (03) 9279 1112 for further information.

FREE GIFT OFFER All orders of cards over \$25, received by 30 September 1995, receive a free copy of Gabriel Gate's handy pocket-sized book, *Favourite Fast Recipes* valued at \$5.95.

Glenhuntly Shop Closes For Winter.

The Anti-Cancer Council shop at 1211 Glenhuntly Road, Glenhuntly, has closed down for the Winter months. Please direct all your merchandise enquires to our Carlton shop. We will keep you informed as to the possible re-opening of this shop.

FUNDRAISING

A \$2 million estate and no Will!

All organisations relying on charitable donations would have been concerned at reading in *The Age* (19/5/95) about the 59 year old recluse from Brighton who died recently of a heart attack with no family and no Will it seems.

Not only did she have a home in a prime real estate location but about 30 bank accounts apparently in about nine different names.

If no Will can be found the government will have to try and find the next of kin. If no relative can be found, the proceeds of the Estate will go to the State Trustees.

State Trustees currently hold about \$20 million in unclaimed money. About 2/3 of people die without a valid Will and consequently never have the opportunity to ensure that any final wishes are carried out or that important gifts are made.

The importance of writing a Will and reviewing it regularly as circumstances change cannot be underestimated. Bequests to the Anti-Cancer Council make up a significant part of our annual income.

If you would like advice on writing your Will or on the wording you could use for a bequest or legacy to the Anti-Cancer Council, please call Joan Hoskins our Donor Services Manager on (03) 9279 1242 any afternoon.

Hatterday a big success

More than 200 Victorian primary and secondary schools created special events or SunSmart themes as part of our second annual Hatterday Competition, held in February.

Schools responded well to what is a simple and fun event by allowing their students to take part in a mad hat day. In return students made a donation to the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria. Overall, \$33,686 was raised, more than double last year.

Some schools made the event a sun-safe day, as part of a school swimming carnival. Others encouraged students to make crazy and fun hats. But everyone seemed to enjoy the event as well as raise money for cancer research and education.

All participating schools went into a draw for the major prize, a visit to the school by Channel 10 Neighbours star Bruce Samazan.

The Leibler Yavneh College, in Caulfield South, was the winner of the 1995 Hatterday competition, which was supported by Milky Way, Channel 10, Headliners Headgear and TAG Promotional Products.

A Reason To Believe

The Reason To Believe Gala Charity Ball, held at Melbourne's World Congress Centre on May 27, was a terrific success. The ball, dedicated to the memory of Janis Bird and Martin Hamel who died of cancer, was attended by 730 people and raised \$65,000.

As a result of this fundraising the Anti-Cancer Council has established "The Janis Bird and Martin Hamel Research Award" and the recipient is Dr Andrew Wilks from the Ludwig Cancer Institute.

The Anti-Cancer Council would like to thank the people involved in the organising, especially Vicki Knights, Alan and Lorraine Pearce and Ron Bird. We also thank the sponsors: White Transport Equipment Pty Ltd, Transpec Australia Ltd, Hamelex Australia Ltd, Aidan Graham Quarries, JW & HL O'Connor Pty Ltd, Mercedes Australia, Steelmark-Eagle & Globe, Hercules Engineering, Transport Connection and Cootes Transport Group.



SHARE THE DREAM

The Terry Fox Cancer Run
Sunday 15 October 1995



The fourth annual Terry Fox Cancer Run will be held on Sunday, 15 October, in Melbourne and throughout the State. Last year the run raised \$51,000 for cancer research in Victoria.

This year's run will be a special event in memory of Hamilton woman Pauline Hutchins, who died earlier this year. Pauline was the top fundraiser for the past two runs and worked hard to raise money for cancer research. She received enormous support from Hamilton people and last year raised \$2116.

Pauline walked the 5km distance with her three year old daughter, Marni, in a pusher. Sadly she died of cancer. Although the run is still called the Terry Fox Cancer Run, we hope you will remember Pauline Hutchins this year.

For those who do not know the Terry Fox story, Terry was a young Canadian cancer patient who in 1980 had a dream to run across Canada and raise money for cancer research.

Terry died before completing his Marathon of Hope but his dream continues. Terry Fox Cancer Runs are now held around the world to raise funds for cancer research.

The Terry Fox Cancer Run is a fun event for the whole family and is open to people of all ages and ability. The Melbourne run takes place around the scenic Zoological Gardens where you can run, walk or jog for a distance of 5 km or 10 km. Enquiries for the Terry Fox country runs should be directed to the Appeals Office on (03) 9279 1114.

Sponsors for the event are Ansett Australia and Regent Hotels.

There will be a wide range of prizes for fundraisers and participants, full details in the next issue of Victorian Cancer News.

Fill in the coupon for your entry forms or call the Appeals Office on (03) 9279 1114.

Terry Fox Cancer Run

Date: Sunday 15 October, 9am
Place: Melbourne
Zoological Gardens
Starting from: The Victorian
Hockey Centre
Brens Drive, Royal Park
(Melway 29 D12)

I want to share Terry's dream. Please send me _____ entry forms and _____ posters.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ P/code _____

Telephone _____

Send to: The Appeals Unit,
Anti-Cancer Council
1 Rathdowne St,
Carlton South, 3053

GENERAL NEWS

Mail problem resolved

In the last edition of Victorian Cancer News we informed you about a disruption to the delivery of some mail to the Anti-Cancer Council.

This disruption, which did not occur at the Anti-Cancer Council, began last year. It was detected after several donors phoned and said their cheques had not been cashed. We now know that many donations did not reach the Anti-Cancer Council and, consequently, those donors were not issued a receipt.

Australia Post has worked very hard to pinpoint the problem and it has now been resolved. But we need to update our records. If you did not receive a receipt during the past year, or received a reminder when you had already donated, please contact Jenny on (03) 9279 1124.

We apologise to any of our donors who have been inconvenienced by this disruption.

Melbourne to host National Breast Cancer Day launch

Melbourne will host the national launch of Australia's Breast Cancer Day (ABCD) on 23 October, 1995. This national day aims to increase breast cancer awareness. The Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria, in conjunction with BreastScreen, will be coordinating ABCD in Victoria.

The theme for the day is "Quality of Life, Quality of Care" and will give all Victorians the opportunity to support breast cancer services for women. Once again, Mrs Annita Keating is patron of ABCD and will launch the day in Melbourne.

One of the ideas we are exploring is to develop a timeline exhibition on breast cancer - "Breast Cancer - the last

20 years". The exhibition will examine the progress that has been made in the area of breast cancer detection, treatment and support, over the last 20 years. It will also be another way to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Breast Cancer Support Service.

Over the coming months, we will be looking for material to include in the exhibition. If you have anything that would be of interest or would be suitable to include in the exhibition, please contact ABCD Project Officer, Nerissa Caine on (03) 9279 1206.

Phone-in

Due to the success of last year's phone-in, the Anti-Cancer Council will again be holding a phone-in which will enable all Victorians to speak to a breast cancer specialist for the cost of a local call. The phone-in will occur between 6pm and 9pm on 23 October, 1995. The number to call is 13 1120.

Community response

There has already been a great response from the community with over 100 groups indicating that they would like to be involved this year. Included among these groups are Rotary Districts 9800 and 9810 and the Country Women's Association (CWA).

We would like to encourage more groups and individuals to be involved in ABCD this year. The Anti-Cancer Council can provide you with an information kit and resources which will enable you to successfully run an activity. If you are interested in participating and have not already registered, please call Nerissa Caine on (03) 9279 1206.

Special medal awarded

One of the Anti-Cancer Council's most prestigious awards, the Medal For Exceptional Service, has been awarded to Melbourne man Mr Bob Greenslade. He is only the fourth person to receive the award.

Mr Greenslade chose to support the research programs of the Anti-Cancer Council when he retired several years ago. He has raised money by making windchimes which he ini-

tially sold through family, friends and nurseries.

The windchimes found their way into the Anti-Cancer Council where staff purchased them for personal use and gifts. When our shop opened staff took the opportunity to sell the windchimes and the project is now booming.



Mr & Mrs Greenslade

In the last five years more than \$33,000 has been donated to the Anti-Cancer Council by Bob and his wife, Margaret, as a result of the project. Mr and Mrs Greenslade are very interested in gene research and the RD Greenslade Research Award sponsors a researcher in this field.

Mr Greenslade makes many other woodcrafts such as wooden letter holders and door stoppers in cat, duck and Scottie dog shapes. He also devotes many hours of the year to constructing easily assembled craft kits for his local church's school holiday program.

Volunteers needed

The Anti-Cancer Council's Opportunity Shop, in Bridge Road, Richmond, urgently needs volunteers.

If you are interested in helping, call Judy on (03) 9429 3616 or call in to 424 Bridge Road, Richmond.

Cancer Information Service to seek new callers

The Anti-Cancer Council's Cancer Information Centre (CIS) is set to launch a new poster and brochure aimed at promoting the service more widely.

The launch, to be held at the Alfred Hospital's William Buckland Radiotherapy Centre on 31 July, will be the

first time the CIS has promoted itself to the public. It will be a chance to spread the word about this excellent service which takes almost 20,000 toll free calls each year. During the week of Australia's Breast Cancer Day last year the CIS took 1000 calls.

The trained staff at the CIS, under the management of Doreen Akkerman, assist people with queries on all forms of cancer. They also offer counselling, information and resources.

If you would like more details about the CIS or the launch of the resources, sponsored by ESSO, please contact the CIS on (03) 9279 1116.

Share your positive experience of cancer

If you have a literary or artistic bent, why not enter the 'Sharing Hope' Poetry, Prose and Art Competition as part of Daffodil Day celebrations. We would like to hear from people who have or have had cancer or know someone with the illness.

In no more than 500 words for poetry and prose, and through any form of artistic expression, we would like to hear from those who wish to share their positive experience of cancer.

It costs \$5 per person to enter and you can enter as many times as you like. Expert judges will assess the entries - artist Mirka Mora will judge the Art section, poet and academic Chris Wallace Crabbe will judge the Poetry, and fiction author Maurillia Mehan will judge the prose entries.

Entries close on 21 July and all entrants are invited to the launch of Daffodil Week and the Presentation of the 'Sharing Hope' Awards on Monday 14 August at the Australia On Collins Shopping Complex. Three winners in each category will receive a selection of prizes from both sponsors, the Novotel Melbourne On Collins Hotel and the shopping centre.

For an entry form and invitation to the Presentation please call (03) 279 1228/1309.