



Raising the bar

Cancer care – another area where private hospitals punch above their weight

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“Private hospitals provide more than 45% of chemotherapy treatments in Australia”

Cancer... it is a pretty scary diagnosis. But the fact is that one in two Australian men and one in three Australian women will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85 according to the Cancer Council. I'm sure you know at least one person at the moment who is having some sort of treatment for cancer. Personally, I have four friends having chemotherapy at the moment and one undergoing radiotherapy. Four of the five are undergoing treatment at various private hospitals around the country and it has become clear to me just how vital private hospitals are in treating cancers. In fact, private hospitals provide more than 45% of the chemotherapy treatments in Australia. Just think what would happen if private hospitals were not there to treat these patients! The waiting lists in the public sector would be overflowing; we would have patients dying from treatable cancers while they waited and families torn apart.

Fortunately, private hospitals *are* there to provide excellent care to thousands of patients each year. The most common cancers in Australia (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) are prostate, colorectal (bowel), breast, melanoma and lung cancer. These five cancers account for over 60% of all cancers diagnosed in Australia.¹ As you will see as you read this issue of *Private Hospital*, many facilities not only have the latest technology and use cutting edge techniques to treat these common and other not so common cancers, but also have unique programs to support patients through their journey with cancer.

In fact, there are so many amazing programs and people working in private hospitals in the cancer field that this issue of *PH* has been easy to fill but it was very difficult for me to choose which hospitals to feature.

Of course, APHA too is involved in policy work around chemotherapy to support our members that provide chemotherapy services. As you will read in this month's Policy Perspective, APHA is currently involved in the Chemotherapy Funding Review that was announced earlier this year by the Minister for Health Tanya Plibersek. [PH](#)

¹ Cancer in Australia. Cancer Council Australia. <http://www.cancer.org.au/about-cancer/what-is-cancer/facts-and-figures.html>

At APHA, we are always working hard on behalf of members, but we want to hear from you! We are currently surveying readers of *Private Hospital* magazine to find out about what you like about our magazine and what you think needs improving.

Please take five minutes and fill out our 2013 Readers Survey at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/PHReader2013. **One lucky survey participant will win an iPad Mini!**