

3rd June 2018

To whom it may concern,

Scholarships in Radiotherapy Group

I am writing to confirm the support that the Scholarships in Radiotherapy Group provide to the Department of Radiation Oncology, Central Coast Cancer Centre (CCCC), Gosford Hospital.

The group was formed by Mrs. Yvonne Crestani in the honor of her late husband Chris Crestani. Chris was a respected chief Radiation Therapist at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney who unfortunately passed away from cancer. He was a strong advocate for education and training of his junior colleagues. In keeping with his legacy, the Scholarships in Radiotherapy group has tirelessly fundraised over the years to provide opportunities for radiation therapists and more recently other allied health professionals in pursuing education and training opportunities for the benefit of our patients. Mrs. Crestani also comes from a nursing background and is a passionate advocate for optimal patient care through education and training.

The funds raised by the group has provided a number of opportunities which directly correlate to improvement in outcomes for patients undergoing treatment for cancer. It has also enabled the following:

- **Funded overseas training at leading international Cancer Centres and courses**

This has enabled our staff to implement sophisticated treatment techniques such as Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT) and Stereotactic Radio-Surgery (SRS) at CCCC.

Successful implementation and maintenance of these services means that patients have access to state of the art treatment techniques on the Central Coast, free of charge and free of logistical barriers such as travel to Sydney or Newcastle.

- **Scholarships to pursue Quality Improvement Projects**

Since the inception of the scholarships program, multiple recipients have completed clinical quality improvement projects which ensures a high standard of care for our patients. Some of these projects have changed clinical practice for the better at CCCC.

- **Financial Support to attend national and international educational and research forums**

Many of our staff have been fortunate to attend conferences with the support of the Scholarships in Radiotherapy Group. These opportunities have allowed presentation of research work completed at CCCC in the national and international stage as well as offer professional development opportunities for clinical front line staff. This allows us to ensure that our staff in addition to our technology remains at the leading edge of national and international standards.

In addition to the financial support they provide, Yvonne Crestani and her group contributes significantly in raising awareness regarding optimal care in cancer for patients and their families on the Central Coast. Evidence supports that one in two patients with cancer will benefit from radiotherapy during the course of their illness. However, in the Central Coast only 40% of patients are referred to or undergo radiotherapy. While there are many factors that impact on this, we are strongly committed to ensuring that every patient every time has the best of care from initial diagnosis to optimal holistic management of their cancer, free of charge and free of worry. The awareness that the Scholarships in Radiotherapy brings to this cause is immensely appreciated and beyond financial value.

On behalf of the Central Coast Cancer Centre, I would like to thank Mrs. Crestani and the Scholarships in Radiotherapy for their ongoing support of our staff in ensuring the best possible care for our patients.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you
Kind regards

Dr Apsara Windsor
Head of Department Radiation Oncology
Central Coast Cancer Centre
Gosford Hospital