

DATE 04 June 2009

New wig library for RPA patients

Cancer patients experiencing hair loss due to chemotherapy and other treatments are to benefit from a new wig library at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital established by the Sydney Breast Cancer Foundation (SBCF).

Sydney Breast Cancer Foundation President, Deborah West said many people find hair loss is one of the hardest parts of their cancer treatment.

“Hair is a very important part of people’s appearance, particularly for women, and losing it can be a constant reminder of their cancer and can cause very strong emotions including depression frustration and distress,” Ms West said.

“The new wig library provides a practical way to solve hair loss by providing free wigs, head scarves and turbans and a range of necessary accessories including under-caps, shampoos and other products.

“This gives women a choice of solutions to their hair loss so they can gain control of their appearance and have one less thing to worry about,” she said.

The wigs, which can cost hundreds of dollars, are provided free of charge for breast cancer patients and for patients suffering hair loss due to treatment for other types of cancer.

The SBCF have provided an initial \$10,000 to set up the wig library and are appealing to the public to donate money to help fund the additional \$20,000 for the 200 wigs a year required to help women cope with hair loss associated with cancer treatment.

Donations can be made online at www.sbcf.org.au or by calling 02 9515 6345.

RPA hospital will also be supplementing Concord Hospital’s wig library with a range of attractive scarves and turbans.

The Sydney Breast Cancer Foundation, based at RPA hospital, funds and supports practical assistance directly to Breast Cancer patients and their families to improve their quality of life. The wig library is the first of several new initiatives created by the Foundation’s Patient Support Program.

media release

Despite advances in cancer control, one in two men and one in three women are at risk of developing cancer in their lifetime in Australia. One in eight women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime. Many patients will experience hair loss as a result of their treatment.

For more information about the Sydney Breast Cancer Foundation see www.sbcf.org.au

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