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# The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne

Posted by Blue Sky - 2009/03/17 11:59

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Hi everyone :) ,

Here's some info about the The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne.

As well as being the only freestanding public hospital in Australia devoted solely to the care and treatment of cancer patients, the Centre runs a program for adolescents and young adults with cancer, called onTrac@PeterMac, the only program of its kind in Australia . They also have a well-resourced Patient Information and Support Centre with a Cancer Support Nurse available to answer questions and help patients and supporters find information and support. There's more information about both of these services below.

If you have any experiences of the Peter Mac hospital or its onTrac@PeterMac program and its Information and Support Centre please do post your comments and thoughts here. It's one of a kind in Australia. I wonder if we should be considering building more stand-alone cancer centres or whether one of its kind is enough.

Their website at <http://www.petermac.org> has information on their patient care programs for different types of cancer, as well as information on their history, research programs, education programs, nursing services and training, the Peter Mac Foundation, their chemotherapy day unit, medical staff and careers, and various other features that go to make up a standalone cancer centre.

As I am not familiar with the Centre and its services I will quote some relevant info from their website:

"The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre holds a unique place in the Australian public health system. It is the only hospital solely dedicated to cancer and one of a few outside the US that has its own integrated cancer research programs and laboratories."

"Peter Mac's main campus is situated in East Melbourne with satellite centres at Bendigo, Box Hill, Moorabbin and the Tattersalls Cancer Centre at Epworth in partnership with Peter Mac."

"The Institute has 151 registered beds, and each year cares for 9,000 inpatients as well as providing more than 200,000 occasions of outpatient care. Peter Mac now has large academic Divisions of Research, Radiation Oncology, Haematology, and Medical Oncology, and an evolving Division of Surgical Oncology."

"It took the concerted efforts of people such as Professor Sir Peter MacCallum and Dr Rutherford Kaye-Scott, to convince the Victorian Government to establish a Cancer Institute in March 1949. The Board met for the first time on 27 April that year and began work on a budget of 3,000 pounds in one room of the former Queen Victoria Hospital in William Street, Melbourne."

"By 1950, an outpatient clinic had been established and named in honour of Professor MacCallum, who had been a tireless advocate and driving force for a centralised cancer institute for Victoria."

In 1986 the name was changed to Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute -'The Peter Mac' "

"Approval was given in 1990 to move Peter Mac to the site of the former St Andrew's Hospital in East Melbourne, Building of the new clinical block commenced in 1991 and, at the same time, substantial renovations and alterations to the existing buildings were undertaken."

A feature of the Peter Mac hospital is the Peter Mac Patient Information & Support Centre where patients and their loved ones and supporters can find information in a variety of formats about cancers and about support services in Victoria.

"The Patient Information and Support Centre is a quiet, comfortable area where information about cancer and its treatment is available. There is information about support services that may assist you, your family and friends during this difficult time."

"The Cancer Support Nurse or a Volunteer can help you to find reliable, up-to-date and relevant information about cancer, its treatment and related support services."

"The Cancer Support Nurse is available to talk with you, to help answer your questions and can help you find other support relevant to your needs. Please drop into the Centre if you would like assistance; you are also welcome to browse". You can also phone or email if you have any concerns or questions or you would like make an appointment to spend more time with the Cancer Support Nurse - currently Nicole Kinnane B).

Available information includes fact sheets, booklets, brochures, dvds, videos, and reliable website information, and there

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is internet access, a calendar of activities, information sessions, information available in other languages, and an on-line database of Victorian services.

Look for the link to "Patient Information and Support Centre" on the home page of the Peter Mac website for more information about the centre, including its location and hours of opening. If you are attending the hospital as a patient or supporter I do encourage you to visit the information and support centre to see what it has to offer.

[http://teamrevive.org/images/fbfiles/images/Nicole\\_15102008\\_3612\\_resized2.jpg](http://teamrevive.org/images/fbfiles/images/Nicole_15102008_3612_resized2.jpg)

The Patient Information and Support Centre. Photo courtesy of Cancer Support Nurse Nicole Kinnane.

The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre runs a program unique in Australia for adolescents and young adults with cancer, called onTrac@PeterMac - the Victorian Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Service. The program website address is <http://www.petermac.org/ontrac/>

They say: "onTrac@PeterMac ... offers specialised, age appropriate care to Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) cancer patients treated within adult hospitals. The team includes a medical & paediatric oncologist, clinical nurse consultant, psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, palliative care CNS, education advisor, music therapist, education & training officer and research officer. The service provides:

- \* clinical care and support ... young people undergoing cancer treatment
- \* secondary consultation service to healthcare professionals, young people and the broader community
- \* training, education & professional development program
- \* medical & psychosocial translational research
- \* AYA resources"

"Located at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, East Melbourne, the onTrac@PeterMac team travel throughout Victoria, to ensure all young people have access to specialist support and advice if required".

"Any young person undergoing cancer care in Victoria is eligible to access the services of the onTrac@PeterMac program."

The age range of those eligible is currently 15 to 25 years.

You can find more information about the onTrac@PeterMac program on their website and there's also a variety of information on the website for both patients and health professionals.

About the patient section of their website they say in part:

"This section of the onTrac@PeterMac web site has been specifically designed for Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) cancer patients. It covers a range of questions that you may want answered and also some other information that we thought you may find useful in answering questions related to a cancer diagnosis and its treatments".

About the health professionals section they say in part:

"The Health Professionals section of the web site has been designed specifically to assist Health professionals who work with or have an interest in adolescent and young adult cancer care. The information that can be found in this website has come from the knowledge and experience gained from healthcare professionals working in the field".

Cheers :),  
Ed.

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