

MEDIA RELEASE

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This World Cancer Day Icon Cancer Centre celebrates one year of delivering world-class care to Mackay

Since opening at the beginning of 2018, Icon Cancer Centre has brought comprehensive, cutting-edge cancer care to Mackay's backyard and has saved patients and their families over 355,000 kilometres of travel; that's equivalent to 22 trips around Australia.

The state-of-the-art centre delivers chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and treatment for blood disorders. All radiation therapy services require no private health insurance and is available to all patients. Over the last 12 months, Icon has treated more than 220 new patients for radiation therapy, delivering over 3,800 radiation oncology treatments. Within the centre's private day hospital, they have delivered over 7,000 episodes of care, 1,522 medical oncology treatments and 840 haematology treatments.

Before the Icon centre opened, there was no local radiation therapy treatment and patients had to travel long distances outside of Mackay. This meant, patients would be away from their support network for many months, increasing the emotional and financial burden for them and their families.

Local patient, Natalie Hine was one of the centre's first patients and received both chemotherapy and radiation therapy. For Natalie, being able to receive treatment close to home made all the difference.

"Who would look after my kids for 5 to 6 weeks? I just didn't know how we would even make it work. Being able to receive all my treatment here in Mackay was such a relief. All this pressure was immediately taken away and I felt so grateful to have been able to recover from my treatments in my own bed and have my all-important support network and my family close by throughout everything," Natalie said.

"I'm now back at work and feeling energised and it's nice to know that the Icon team is here if I'm not feeling well, or if something happens in the future."

Natalie is one of hundreds of patients benefitting from this world-class centre equipped with - an eight-chair day oncology hospital, Varian TrueBeam linear accelerator (to deliver radiation therapy), an on-site pharmacy and a dedicated, multidisciplinary team including experienced doctors who have a passion for regional care.

In October, the centre introduced Deep Inspiration Breath Hold (DIBH) technique. DIBH is a technique that reduces the potential impact on the heart from radiation during treatment for left-sided breast cancers. DIBH technology installed at the Icon centre is the latest of its kind and provides optimal comfort and patient safety, and further allows patients to receive the best possible care on their doorstep.

Alongside delivering exceptional cancer treatment, the centre has been involved in a number of community events. From their own community open day to sponsoring events such as Tour de Cure, The Nude Lunch and the Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival.

"It's our firm belief that people should have access to quality cancer care as close to home as possible. Icon Mackay is equipped with the latest, most cutting-edge technology available to better target and treat cancer in the most effective and safe way," Icon Group CEO, Mark Middleton said.

"We are very proud of the centre's first year and are thrilled to be welcomed by a community who deserves to have access to the latest treatments and feel supported every step of the way. We look forward to continuing to build on our services and deliver the best possible care to patients in Mackay and the surrounding region."

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About Icon Group

Icon Group - Australia's largest dedicated cancer care provider. The Group has expanded globally into Singapore, China and New Zealand and is among the top ten healthcare companies in Australia.

The Group's cancer services include 28 cancer centres in Australia, including day oncology hospitals, radiation oncology facilities and comprehensive centres that bring both oncology disciplines together.

The Group also encompasses Epic Pharmacy: provider of medication management and pharmacy services to the hospital, oncology and aged care sectors; and Slade Health: one of Australia's largest chemotherapy compounders with three TGA-approved manufacturing sites across the eastern seaboard. For more information visit www.icongroup.global and follow us on social media @IconGroupAU

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