

MEDIA RELEASE

Hancock expands long-term support for cancer patients in the Pilbara with multi-million dollar investment

Solaris Cancer Care will be able to expand access to its essential and personalised support to cancer patients and their families across the Pilbara, thanks to a new multi-million-dollar partnership with **Hancock Iron Ore** and **Hancock Prospecting**.

Hancock have been a long-standing backer of Solaris thanks to the generosity and support of its chairman, Mrs Gina Rinehart AO.

Under the continuing and expanded partnership, Hancock Iron Ore will provide significant multi-million-dollar contributions over multiple years, with Hancock Prospecting also contributing a multi-million-dollar donation, ensuring Solaris can continue to deliver and extend its vital support services across the Pilbara where the need is greater than ever.

Solaris provides much needed essential and personalised support to cancer patients and their families to assist with the emotional and physical effects of cancer diagnosis, treatment, recovery and ongoing care.

The announcement was made in Port Hedland with Hancock executives met with some of the brave cancer survivors and patients currently being helped by Solaris and heard first-hand their inspiring and courageous stories.

As a result of this generosity, Solaris will be able to significantly expand its regional hub, employing an additional Cancer Support Coordinator and social worker, to provide tailored guidance and hands-on support for Pilbara-based patients, their carers and families, with an in-depth understanding of the unique challenges they face when accessing healthcare.

Key services offered will include:

- Individual counselling and crisis support.
- Help navigating the healthcare system in both the Pilbara and Perth.
- Coordination of supportive care services (Carers course, therapies, workshops).
- Connections to local networks and community groups, including ReachUs, Hedland Well Women's Centre, WA Country Health Service and the McGrath Foundation.
- Bereavement support and information from diagnosis through to post-treatment care.

This support of Solaris builds on Hancock's long history of standing with patients and driving progress in cancer care. In the early 1990s, Mrs Rinehart established Australia's first dedicated breast cancer foundation and initiated the nation's first national Breast Cancer Day. In the early years, Mrs Rinehart organised a huge petition that has helped lower the age for breast cancer checks, quietly funded patient care packages and research, and launched the world's first fleet of pink mining trucks, now echoed across its trains, uniforms, and more.



Through staff giving programs and business contributions, Hancock continues to foster a culture of compassion, assistance and hope.

Solaris Cancer Care, Pilbara client Tabarena Waddaman said “When I got diagnosed, I was worried and scared, I was worried for myself and my daughter. Solaris cared for me and made me feel ok with getting my treatment. They made sure my daughter was looked after. They helped me get to my accommodation, took me to the shops. Made it possible for me to continue my treatment. Solaris gave me the confidence to go ahead with my surgery. If they were not supporting me I would not have kept going with my cancer treatment. I thought I had nobody here, but I had Solaris. When I have team members of Solaris with me I feel safe”

Mrs Gina Rinehart AO, Chairman, Hancock Iron Ore said the company was proud to support such a vital service for people in regional Australia living with cancer.

“Cancer isn’t only about the medical battle. It’s also the emotional and practical toll that diagnosis brings for patients especially and their families and others close to them which is why the work Solaris does is so essential.”

“I am especially proud of how our team embraces this cause – not only showing care and compassion to colleagues and fellow Australians facing cancer but also raising funds and giving their time to support them. Our staff live this commitment every day, and it is a culture of genuine support that I hope will inspire many other companies and organisations around Australia to follow.”

Tad Watroba, Executive Director, Hancock Prospecting said:

“I have worked alongside Mrs Rinehart since the early 1990s, and been to many of the functions she has organised towards helping those facing breast cancer and in more recent years been by her side when she launched the first pink trucks, the first pink trains, and the first pink WHIMS (Wet High-Intensity Magnetic Separation) plant, all first in the world, but I was especially touched by her personal words to breast cancer patients and her speeches on their behalf.

“As I look back on my long career with Mrs Rinehart, one of the things of which I’m the most proud, is how Mrs Rinehart’s genuine care of those facing cancer has been adopted by our staff, so that when a staff member is given that diagnosis, she or he is surrounded by staff who genuinely care and offer to help.

“We have built a company group of which I can be immensely proud.”

Mr Gerhard Veldsman, CEO, Hancock Iron Ore:

“This partnership with Solaris Cancer Care is another example of our dedication to making a real difference in the lives of Pilbara residents.

“By supporting the Cancer Support Coordinator role, we are helping to bridge the gap in healthcare access for regional communities so that those facing cancer in the Pilbara won’t have to navigate their journey alone.”

Solaris Cancer Care Founder Dr David Joske also praised the collaboration, emphasising its wide-reaching benefits across the State.

“We are deeply grateful to Mrs Rinehart and her Hancock companies for their long-term and

generous support to not only Solaris, but cancer care in general. She has been a leader in this space establishing Australia's first breast cancer foundation – the Hancock Family Breast Cancer Foundation – and establishing the first National Breast Cancer Day in October. Her efforts laid the groundwork for national care and support that continues to this day.”

“When someone is diagnosed with cancer, the need for emotional, practical and psychological support becomes immediate. Our programs including the Pilbara Support Program – provide support for people including in the Pilbara, where help is much harder to access.

“This support eases the heavy load carried by families and caring others who are already facing so much. With the help of generous partners like Hancock we can continue to stand beside those individuals and their families through every step of their journey.”

Solaris Cancer Care CEO, Tony Hume said:

“Over many years Mrs Rinehart has used her time, profile and generosity to champion support for cancer care initiatives and support towards fighting this devastating disease.

“The pink trucks and other mining equipment at her mine sites and the pink ore ships visiting the Pilbara and travelling the world, have become a welcome reminder to people across the Pilbara, they are not alone in the fight against cancer.

“This substantial funding and valued partnership will not only help Solaris continue to deliver its services throughout the Pilbara, but also significantly extend our reach and care to some of the most vulnerable, especially those in regional and remote areas who face significant barriers to accessing care.

“We look forward to the positive impact we can create together, from prevention to providing supportive care to those in crisis after a cancer diagnosis,” Mr Hume added.

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For more information or to register interest in the service, please visit:

www.solariscancercare.org.au

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