



MEDIA RELEASE

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Cancer Council and UTAS to scrutinise community needs

Circular Head will go under the microscope to ensure the community gets the very best possible cancer services.

The Cancer Council Tasmania in partnership with the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH) Tasmania will examine existing health data to map out a cancer health action plan for Circular Head residents.

Cancer Council CEO Lawson Ride says this information will help his organisation determine the community's cancer prevention, early detection, patient transport, accommodation and support services needs.

"Rural and regional communities throughout Australia suffer poorer health outcomes than their city cousins, which is unacceptable," Mr Ride says.

"We want to maximise the effectiveness of our services for Circular Head folk but we will also use the research data to help us argue the case for appropriate government cancer services in the region."

UDRH will undertake a research study to interview cancer patients in the Circular Head municipality for details of their experiences with service access including pre, during and post treatment as part of the larger project.

UDRH Director Associate Professor Sue Kilpatrick says anecdotal evidence shows that some rural Tasmanians with cancer choose not to access services in distant locations.

"This study may provide valuable information for others and may lead to better services to many rural areas in Tasmania," Prof Kilpatrick says.

Circular Head Council and the state health department support the project.

Mr Ride says the Cancer Council welcomes any support from groups or organisations with health data or from volunteers to help collate the data.

For comment call Lawson Ride on 0418 129 757