



SolarisCare Foundation
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MEDIA RELEASE

SOLARISCARE STAFF 'ON THE ROAD' AT SCGH!

From Monday, 8th March till Thursday, 11th March 2010 there will be some unusual fundraising occurring outside the SolarisCare Cancer Support Centre at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. People dressed in shorts, t-shirts, and possibly some lycra, will be getting on bikes (real and exercise) all in the name of raising funds for cancer patients and their carers.

SolarisCare Foundation is holding an 'in-house' event to promote the Red Sky Ride which has 20 riders cycling over 1,000 kilometres in eight days around the south west of Western Australia. This event is being held from the 7th–14th March 2010 to raise awareness and funds for the SolarisCare Foundation. David Edwards, General Manager of SolarisCare Foundation said "As the cyclists are on the road trying to raise \$400,000 for SolarisCare we thought it would be great to hold our own fundraising cycling event at the hospital. Our aim is to pedal the same amount of kilometres on the hospital grounds, as the riders will be doing on the open road." David has agreed to start the kilometres ticking over by being the first rider on a bike outside SolarisCare Cancer Support Centre at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. 1 in 3 people are now affected by cancer so the demand on SolarisCare services has increased significantly and the organisation constantly needs to raise funds to cope with the ever growing demand. SolarisCare are hoping that staff and the general public will get involved in this unique event and have a lot of fun doing it. There is no minimum or maximum amount of time you need to be on the bike, but it is compulsory to be happy. No complaining allowed, even if the legs do get numb. SolarisCare wish to thank Wayne Evans from Cyclemania (North Perth) and Peter Hodgson from Orbit Fitness for providing the racing bike and spinning bikes for this event.

If anyone wants to be involved by riding one of the bikes, please call Nicolette Madry on 9346 7631 or email her at voladminscgh@solariscare.org.au. If you cannot assist by cycling, you might like to make a donation instead as SolarisCare is self funded and relies on the community to continue its important work. Donations can be made on-line at www.redskyride.com.au or www.solariscare.org.au.

BACKGROUND ON SOLARISCARE

Dr David Joske, Head of Haematology, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital founded the SolarisCare Foundation in September 2001 for the specific purpose of providing integrated and supportive care to all people with cancer, their families and carers in Western Australia. These centres are located at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and St John of God Hospital Subiaco.

The SolarisCare Foundation Cancer Support Centres provide a safe and welcoming place where cancer patients and their carers have “a soft place to land” to receive information and choose a complementary therapy from a range of over 15 therapies provided by volunteer professional therapists.

The Cancer Support Centres are integrated with mainstream medical care and aim to provide patients with practical skills to cope with the emotional and physical side effects of chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery. Offering support, educational material and complementary therapy sessions, (e.g. massage, reiki, counselling) for anyone who has been diagnosed with cancer and is receiving treatment, regardless of age, gender, type of cancer, or socio economic status. It is the first of its kind Australia.

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Photo Opportunity: Opportunity to photograph David Edwards, General Manager of SolarisCare Foundation “putting in the kilometres” to kick start the SCGH Red Sky Ride in support of the Red Sky Ride event