



Patient Luke Tanham receives a massage from SolarisCare patron cricketing great Justin Langer.
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Langer shows his support

WA cricketing great Justin Langer has gone into bat for the SolarisCare Foundation in a bid to rally more volunteer therapists.

SolarisCare centres at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH) and St John of God Hospital offer therapies such as massage and acupuncture to cancer patients as a way of complementing conventional treatments.

Langer, who serves as the patron for the foundation, visited patients at SCGH last week to help raise the group's profile and offer some free

massages under the guidance of a trained masseur. He hopes to encourage qualified therapists around Perth to pitch in at the support centres for half a day a week.

The volunteers have proved vital to the organisation since it opened at SCGH in 2001, helping patients cope with the emotional and physical side effects of cancer treatments.

SolarisCare chief executive David Oliver said the group had helped up to 1000 patients annually, with each therapist devoting about 180 hours to the resource.

"The treatments are not a cure for cancer, but they do offer cancer patients marked improvements to well being and quality of life," he said.

"And right now the focus is on getting more therapists to become part of the team."

SolarisCare depends on volunteers, donations and fundraising activities as well as free services provided by businesses like gyms to run the service.

To volunteer, email info@solariscare.com.au or contact 9346 7630.