



SolarisCare Foundation  
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**Cancer Support Centres:**  
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St. John of God Hospital  
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16 August 2010

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **WHEELING IN FOR CANCER**

SolarisCare were recently given a great gift for their Cancer Support Centres when the Italia Lodge of Freemasons in WA donated and delivered three wheelchairs to our St John of God Subiaco Cancer Support Centre.

Andrea Milani, The Master of Italia Lodge states. "The Italia Lodge heard via a SolarisCare volunteer that the three centres were in desperate need of wheelchairs for their centres. We had heard of the fantastic work that these centres offer to cancer patients and their carers and wanted to make a positive contribution that would assist them straight away. We hope these wheelchairs will facilitate the smooth operation of SolarisCare and we, the Freemasons of Italia Lodge, are happy to be of assistance." The Freemasons of Western Australia are a community minded group of people, who have consistently donated and assisted worthy causes, such as medical research and equipment, education grants etc.

The donation of the wheelchairs has been a highlight for the staff and volunteers as they have been trying to obtain them for the past few years without success. SolarisCare General Manager David Edwards continues with the accolades. "The donation of the wheelchairs has provided a huge step forward in what we can offer cancer patients. It now means that patients who have normally been confined to a hospital ward, can now access the complimentary therapies and counselling services within our Centres. This is a positive outcome, as it allows them to leave their wards for a short period of time, and gives them 'time out' in a non threatening environment."

SolarisCare is a self funded organisation, staffed mostly by volunteers who selflessly and willingly donate their time and skills to assist cancer patients and their carers, without asking for any reward or remuneration. These wheelchairs will be used by SolarisCare staff and volunteers for the movement of patients from the cancer wards to the Cancer Support Centres for treatments.

SolarisCare Cancer Supports Centres, rely on donations and assistance from organisations to maintain it's vital services in the support of Cancer Patients and their Carers. If anyone would like to make a donation, please visit our website at [www.solariscare.org.au](http://www.solariscare.org.au). If you require further information about the services SolarisCare offers, please contact one of our centres – Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (9346 7630), St John of God Subiaco (9388 9788) or our South West Centre (08) 9791 1559.

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## **BACKGROUND ON SOLARISCARE**

SolarisCare was formed in 2001 by Haematologist Dr David Joske. SolarisCare offers 'complementary integrative therapies' for cancer patients and their carers. Integrative therapies focus on individual patient care and combines the best conventional western medicine and complementary therapies from many cultures, working together to provide the best patient outcome. During 2009, over four thousand patients received treatments at SolarisCare Centres at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and St John of God Hospital Subiaco. SolarisCare recently opened its third centre in the South West in Bunbury to enable regional cancer patients and their carers to access the complimentary services.

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**Photo:** Photos attached for release