



Doug Parkinson, MLC

Member for Wellington

Tuesday, 14 February 2006

MORE AMMUNITION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

Media Note: The Grants Ceremony will take place TODAY (14th February, 2006) at 10.00am at the Mercure Hotel, Hobart.

Member for Wellington Doug Parkinson said today that he hoped \$273,000 in Cancer Council Tasmania grants awarded to local medical researchers would encourage them in their scientific work to fight the disease.

Mr Parkinson presented the Cancer Council's 2006 cancer research grants to researchers from the State's public hospitals and the University of Tasmania.

"The grants are further ammunition in our fight against the scourge of this awful disease," Mr Parkinson said.

"The overall incidence of cancer in Tasmania has been on the rise over the past 20 years or so.

"But while the number of new cancer cases diagnosed each year has risen, the good news is that mortality rates have remained relatively stable.

"This means there are more people living with cancer as a result of earlier detection and improved treatment options.

“There are a range of successful screening and awareness programs being run in Tasmania by the Government and organisations like the Cancer Council with the aim of warding off many types of cancers, or catching them in the early stages, before it is too late.

“The most common cause of cancer related deaths in Tasmanians is lung cancer and the most common cause of this cancer is smoking.

“The Government, the Cancer Council and the Tobacco Coalition have been working closely together to support legislation and awareness initiatives which we hope will reduce the incidence of lung cancer.

“But these activities are only part of the battle plan in the fight against cancer.

“As well as a shield, we need the sword of knowledge to attack the disease head on.

“The Cancer Council is to be commended for getting on the front foot and for its tremendous commitment to supporting local medical research into cancer prevention and treatment.

“Since 1995 it has invested some \$2.5 million to support significant anti-cancer research and clinical trials in Tasmania.

“This work is being undertaken by some of our best and brightest medical researchers both in the hospitals and at the University.

“Their work offers hope for Tasmanians living with cancer now and those who unfortunately will do so in the future.

“It is not beyond the realms of possibility that a Cancer Council grant today may be the seed of a Nobel Prize winning scientific discovery further down the track.”

Further information: Shaun Rigby on 0438021936