**Armidale Transport to Treatment Service**

Travelling to and from medical appointments is difficult for many people affected by cancer.  Cancer treatment usually occurs over an extended period of time and requires repeated attendance at facilities that may be far from home.

Cancer Council’s Transport to Treatment service helps remove this barrier for eligible people affected by cancer. Last year, Cancer Council NSW’s dedicated volunteer Transport to Treatment drivers helped 2,660 cancer patients and their carers get to treatment centres and hospitals, covering more than 1.1 million kilometres.

Transport to treatment complements the provision of transport for cancer patients and their carers (if required) and is designed to supplement existing community transport services and other transport options by offering patients transport to treatment free of charge.

Cancer Council NSW is now in the position to provide Transport to Treatment to people living in the Armidale area.

The Armidale Transport to Treatment service is administered by the Tamworth Cancer Council NSW office and implemented by a dedicated group of local volunteers.

The service has been made possible thanks to the local community’s generous support of events like Stars of Armidale, and its continued operation will be supported by community events like Relay for Life and community partnership donations through Regional Australia Bank.

**Eligibility**

To ensure the viability and transparency of this service we encourage patients to consult your local health professional or voluntarily conduct a self-assessment to ensure you qualify.

Patients must:

* have an active diagnosis of cancer.
* utilise the service to access chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment.
* have an appointment directly related to their treatment.
* not have access to a vehicle or unable to drive at present:
* not have family or friends that can assist with transport; and
* not being able to access other Community Transport services.

**Mobility Assistance**

To be able to use this service the following conditions apply, clients must:

* be able to walk unassisted for at least 20 metres
* be in complete control of their own bodily functions (i.e. be able to toilet themselves unassisted)
* Not have an oxygen tank they are required to use.
* All passengers that use the service must be able to wear a seatbelt correctly

**Transport schedule and enquires**

Cancer Council’s Transport to Treatment service predominately operates 8am to 6pm and we ask that patients notify the treatment centre that they will be using this transport service to ensure their treatments/appointments are scheduled at a suitable times to allow our volunteer drivers to transport the patients within our standard hours of operation. This also helps minimise risks to volunteer drivers associated with early morning or late afternoon travel on country roads while transporting patients.

To enable the rostering of volunteer drivers for this service all bookings need to be made by 12 noon the Wednesday the week prior to when the transport is required. Your pick up date and times will be confirmed prior to your transport.

Questions relating to Transport to Treatment can be directed to

Mr Paul Hobson ~ Cancer Council NSW

Community Programs Coordinator - New England Ph: 6763 0900 or

Email: [paulh@nswcc.org.au](mailto:paulh@nswcc.org.au)