

Lifhouse at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital



The Sydney Cancer Centre is set to evolve into Lifhouse at RPA, a world-class cancer treatment and research facility providing integrated care to patients and their carers.

A centre of excellence, Lifhouse at the Royal Prince Alfred hospital will integrate comprehensive clinical care, research, education, psychosocial, wellness and volunteer programs creating opportunities for innovative discoveries, compassionate holistic care and better outcomes for patients.

A charity, The Chris O'Brien Lifhouse at RPA is a not-for-profit Public Benevolent institution. Income will be re-invested to continually innovate and improve services treating public and private patients alike.

The Chris O'Brien Lifhouse at RPA will be a world-class cancer treatment and research facility providing integrated care to patients and carers, located in the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital – Sydney University precinct at Camperdown, Sydney. A centre of excellence. It is intended to create Australia's largest integrated cancer care facility, The Chris O'Brien Lifhouse at RPA will combine all facets of clinical care - surgery, medical and radiation oncology, research wellness and support services on an in-patient and out-patient basis.

It will also provide screening programs, diagnosis and treatment, to through-care and post-treatment support. With the aim to increase patient participation in clinical trials from the current level of 8% to 20% or more with the belief that more trials lead to more breakthroughs and better cancer outcomes.

The Chris O'Brien Lifhouse history

The Sydney Cancer Centre was established in 1996 and is based at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA) in Camperdown. In addition to RPA, the centre provides clinical services at Concord and Canterbury Hospitals as well as an outreach program at Dubbo Base Hospital.

The Chris O'Brien Lifhouse at RPA raises funds for patient care, research, education and capital works and plans to develop a comprehensive Cancer Centre at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. The Centre delivered a business plan for the project to the NSW Government in June 2008 and in the 2008 Federal Government budget was allocated \$50 million, over three years, to support the construction of the facility.

The New South Wales State and Federal Governments commitment of \$300 million, to this project. Envisaging an internationally renowned, fully comprehensive, integrated cancer treatment, research and education facility in Sydney on the RPA/University of Sydney campus.

Professor Chris O'Brien AO MS MD FRCS (HON) FRACS 3 Jan 1952 – 4 June 2009

Professor Chris O'Brien was a world renowned Australian head and neck surgeon, oncologist and scholar. Chris saw a need and advocated for integrated cancer care in Australia and was instrumental in establishing the concept of Lifehouse.

Chris O'Brien was a man of leadership, vision and courage. He inspired people, both through his work as a cancer specialist and through his own three-year battle with an aggressive brain tumour.

Chris transformed his personal adversity into a national opportunity, using his experience to fight so much harder for cancer patients and their families. Chris' vision was for an integrated cancer treatment centre so that patients would no longer have to navigate their way through all the different elements of dealing with their illness alone. His vision will be realised with the completion of The Chris O'Brien Lifehouse at RPA in early 2013

By a cruel twist of fate Chris was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour. His suffering and the treatment he received, gave him even greater insights into what cancer patients experience.

Shortly before he died on 4 June 2009,
Professor O'Brien was awarded the Order of Australia.

Acknowledgement for this article:

The Sydney Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
<http://www.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/rpa>

The Lifehouse Organisation
<http://www.lifehouserpa.org.au/>



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