

Liverpool Cancer Therapy Centre

Annual Report 2004-05



ANNUAL REVIEW 2004/2005

(an addendum to 10 Years of Achievement Report, September 2005)

Table of contents

<i>Area Cancer Services</i>	2
<i>Radiation Oncology</i>	2
<i>Medical Oncology</i>	3
<i>Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre</i>	3
<i>Education</i>	3
<i>Quality</i>	4
<i>Nursing</i>	4
<i>Palliative Care</i>	4
<i>Allied Health</i>	4
<i>The Collaboration for Cancer Research and Evaluation</i>	5
<i>Donations</i>	5
<i>Activity Report</i>	6
<i>Financial Report</i>	7

Area Cancer Services – Amalgamation

In January 2005, South Western Sydney Area Health Service amalgamated with Central Sydney, emerging a much larger organization under the name of Sydney South West Area Health Service. Because of the progress already established in both of these areas to become an integrated area cancer service, Cancer Services have been one of the first clinical streams to undergo a cross-sector merge, into a single entity.

The focus for the executive has been to draw together information from all the centres, and to compare the activity and resources that will now need to be distributed amongst the new services. This is no easy task, and will require refinement into the future.

The new Director, Professor Chris O'Brien, has a mandate to develop a plan that will take us forward to 2016. In addition to this, the Cancer Institute has released seed and growth funding to provide additional resources and services to cancer patients in Sydney's south-west.

With amalgamations, strategic planning, new service initiatives and departmental planning, it has been a year of comparisons and reflections, and some great ideas have transpired. Implementation of these plans is the challenge we look forward to achieving in the years to come.

Radiation Oncology

The Radiation Oncology Department has excelled in training and staffing this year, with all registrars passing their examinations at their first attempt. Two of our medical staff were appointed as Clinical Associate Professors; congratulations to Martin Berry and Geoff Delaney. Welcome to our most recent recruited registrars, Dr Keith Lim and Dr Christina Sevastos.

With the appointment of a second educator, Radiotherapy now has a well planned education programme, and has registered with the Australian Institute of Radiotherapy for appellation on their training. They have taken on a large contingent of Professional Development Year students this year, with excellent results in this area. The addition of these junior staff bring us up to an almost full complement of staff.

The Medical Physics Department has had a full workload this year. They have installed and commissioned the second Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre machine and have decommissioned Linear accelerator number 3 at Liverpool. They are now working on the commissioning of a new machine, which should be available to treat patients in October. There are a wide array of other medical physics projects that are proceeding well. We have also welcomed the first medical physics registrars into the Liverpool and Macarthur Departments.

The entire team have been involved in a number of projects this year including the fusion of diagnostic images from PET and MRI scans onto the patients' planning scans to improve treatment delivery, further work has been done on our new information system making it easier to transfer valuable patient information to the doctors looking after their patients and a number of projects addressing the monitoring of the quality of treatment delivery.

Medical Oncology

Medical Oncology has increased its contingent of Medical staff this year, increasing its FTE for the first time in many years. We welcome Dr Richard Eek, Dr Patricia Kho and Dr Diana Adams, who have recently joined our team. We have also had an increase in our registrar staffing across Liverpool Cancer Therapy Centre (LCTC) and Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre (MCTC), with the MCTC position being shared with Palliative Care. Having additional staff has enabled us to increase services, reduce waiting times for consultations and provide increased support for inpatient care at Campbelltown Hospital. The College of Physicians performed a site visit for re-accreditation of Registrar Advanced Training in Medical Oncology in August 2005. Initial verbal feedback was very positive and an additional accredited position is likely for 2006.

The past 12 months has seen a significant change in our chemotherapy prescribing. Following entry of our chemotherapy care plans into Lantis (and with Department of Health approval) we have been electronically approving and printing each patient's chemotherapy chart. This has substantially reduced the potential for omission of important information from the treatment sheet or errors related to the interpretation of handwriting. The presence of tumour site and stage specific chemotherapy and other care plans/protocols, have provided nursing and pharmacy staff a clear reference point when reviewing patients and providing treatment. It is hoped that a completely electronic prescribing and administration module will be enabled over the next 12 months.

We continue to recruit well to multi-centre clinical trials and are progressively increasing our clinical research portfolio. Similarly, we continue to provide teaching to medical students and post-graduate medical and nursing practitioners. The "Dealing with Cancer" programme for patients and carers continues to be well received by our community and has now been replicated in several different languages.

Macarthur Cancer Services

After it's first full financial year of operation, the Macarthur centre has grown swiftly into a well established service. Programmes are in place for patient education, relaxation groups, and the Look Good Feel Better Group. Further development of the infrastructure includes the Occupational Health and Safety working party and executive committees, and April saw the commissioning of an additional linear accelerator, which will double the radiotherapy treatment capacity at the Centre.

Ensuring that they are well established in the quality arena - Macarthur has presented their Chemotherapy Audit and Cancer Community Council Programmes at the Australian Quality in Health Meeting (Canberra). The Inaugural Open Day drew much interest, along with the fundraising efforts of Australia's Biggest Morning Tea and Daffodil Day. The Relay for Life, Campbelltown, is now being hosted annually as a local fundraising venture for the centre.

Videoconferencing has been a useful tool this year, allowing improved access to many education sessions and meetings that can now be attended across the bandwidth, including the Cancer Services Annual General Meeting.

Education

The Education Committee meets bi-monthly, and collects the programmes for the centre. There are many varied patient support groups, education sessions and information packs that are put together to better inform patients, and these have been diligently listed and stored in accessible locations, to enable easy access when staff are required to provide this information to patients.

The Staff Education Sessions continue, with programmes established for radiotherapy, radiation oncology, medical oncology, nursing, administration and allied health. All our clerical staff undertook pilot competency-based administrative certificates and diploma's this year, and the results have been remarkable. The organisation requires a minimum set of annual mandatory training sessions to be attended by all staff; we have programmed these into our regular training sessions to ensure all staff have regular and accessible training options.

Quality

The Quality committee meets monthly to discuss EQUiP Accreditation, Quality projects and table Cancer Services Policies. The Incident Review Committee is also under its responsibility. This multidisciplinary team examines all reported incidents, tabling reports to the Quality and Cancer Therapy Centre Executive Committee. Some of the quality projects completed this year include a Staff Satisfaction Survey, Patient Satisfaction Survey, Radiotherapy Incident Reporting Database, Lantis Quality Data Audits, Transcription Audits, Drug Audits, Cannulation Audits, Clerical Staff Certification Programme, Retrospective Billing Audit, Mandatory Training Registers and Clerical Staff Rotation.

Some policies reviewed include: administrative booking, referral and cancellation procedures, patient records handling procedures, transport, intrathecal chemotherapy administration, blood transfusion and chemotherapy administration.

Nursing

Alex Grimson Ground East ward has continued to provide patient care to an increasing population of haematology and oncology patients. All the nurses are to be congratulated on their success in maintaining a positive team attitude under often difficult circumstances. They have welcomed new graduate nurses, nursing students and enrolled nurses to the team and continue to teach and support our developing workforce. Our Haematology/Oncology Clinical Nurse Consultant, Moira Stephens, has hit the ground running providing the clinical and educational support required for policy and practice development. Moira has presented at conferences and provided seminars to students at the College of Nursing. Her article "The lived experience post autologous haematopoietic stem cell transplant: a phenomenological study" was the lead article in the *The European Journal of Cancer Nursing* and she has provided three chapters of the recently published, "Royal Marsden Handbook of Cancer Chemotherapy". The nurses of the Cancer Therapy Day Centre have developed a number of nurse initiated assessment and intervention protocols. These are supported by the Lantis system that continues to develop and expand.

Palliative Care

With such a small resource, so much can be achieved. This is most highlighted with this team of dedicated clinicians, who deliver a service to a very large population base. Several changeovers of medical staff have occurred seamlessly to the client-base, and more than 400 patients are seen every month. The undeniable growth requirements in this area are being scrutinised in the cancer plan, with the aim to ensure resources are available to meet the demand in the next few years.

Allied Health

The quality of life specialists that make up the Allied Health Team include: Social Work, Clinical Psychology, Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Dietetics. Along with the new Cancer Care Co-ordinators, these are the group that make the cancer journey less intrusive, and provide improved outcomes during a difficult time for patients and their family and carers. With an established group of professionals, this year seems to have gone very quickly. These resources will be increased next year, thanks to Cancer Institute funding some new initiatives about to occur in our area.

Clinical Trials

The Clinical Trials Department continues to actively participate in research studies for the centre ranging from local investigator initiated studies to large international multi-centre studies. The research committee meets monthly to review potential new research studies and discuss ways to improve the research process for the centre.

A Research Manager has been appointed to manage the Clinical Trial Departments at both Liverpool and Macarthur. We also have two staff members (one at Liverpool and one at Macarthur) who are representatives of the Cancer Council Cancer Trials NSW program, which is designed to promote patient participation in clinical trials.

The Collaboration for Cancer Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CCORE)

In 2005 CCORE published 10 peer-reviewed papers, one editorial and collaborated in three chapters in the new guidelines on the management on lymphomas published by the NHMRC. We have completed reports commissioned by NSW Health, the Australian Cancer Network and the Institutes of Medicine of the US National Institutes of Health. We have obtained continued support from the International Atomic Energy Agency for our CD-ROM based distance learning course in the Applied Sciences of Oncology and held a validation meeting in Kuala Lumpur in February with students from eight countries who had participated in the pilot program. We have received infrastructure funding from the Cancer Institute NSW to assist in linking the databases of NSW Radiation Oncology Departments.

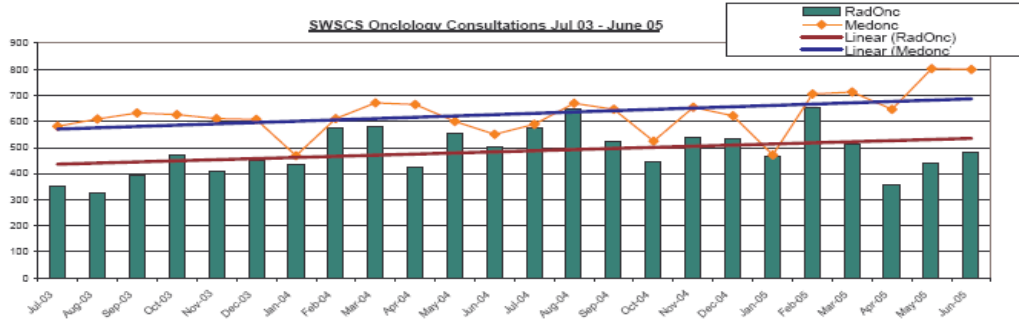
Donations

Cancer Services is funded by government to provide an oncology service. With the generosity of the following individuals and organisations this year, we have been able to continue to provide quality service, improving the outcomes for staff and patients.

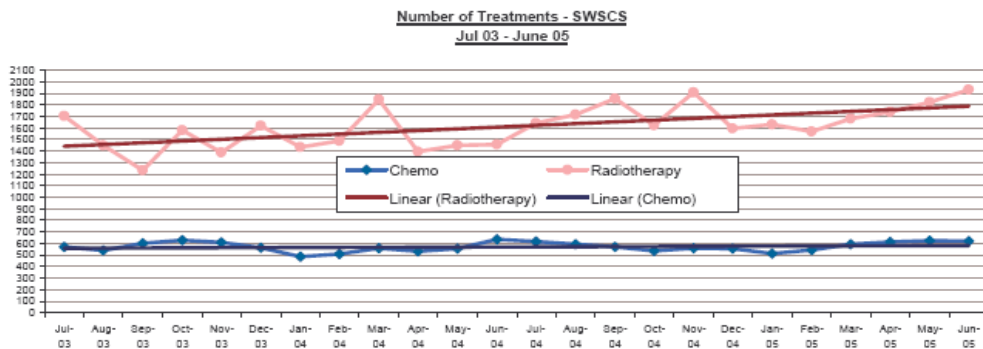
A Wilberforce	Geoff Fowler	Mario's Instalations	Mrs Marcia Byrne
Alex & Babs Marnock	Graham Mills & Franek family	Max & Katie Turner	Mrs Maria Veliotis & Family
All Saints Catholic Senior College	Gravograph - New	Metcash Trading Limited	Ms Photini Nicodemou
Allan R Hojel	Hermes	Michael Rauch	Narelle Conn
Andrew & Elpida Anastasiou	Heather & Grahah	Moira & Ronald Green	Nicole Crozier, Jo & Craig Hatch
Andrew Wass	Waugh	Monica Chamberlain	Norm Whiley
Anthony Josephaki	Helen Russell	Mr & Mrs C Rattray	P & A Vassiliados
Avillion Hotel Sydney	Helen Standing-	Mr & Mrs Franks	Pamela May
Barbara Gough	Melody Makers	Mr & Mrs K Smith	Peter Crawford
Benhamin Anderson-Ray	Inner Wheel Club	Mr & Mrs Harry Nooyan	Phil & Bec Newman
Bowral Women Bowling Club	J & G Sprouster	Mr Costas Stavrou	Rick & Margaret Shipley
Bradbury Inn	J Ransley	Mr D & Mrs H Paraskevopoulos	Rotary Club of Liverpool West
Brian Harland	J S Stephan	Mr E & Mrs F Livanos	Samir Rahme
C & W Burnett	John & Leah Stassi	Mr Harry Drivas	St Joseph's School
Cabra-Vale Diggers Ladies Auxiliary	John Collins	Mr Harry Kontominos & Family	Sue Wright
Camden Golf Club Ltd	John E Wheatley Pty Limited	Mr J & Mrs I Hasapis	T J L Tyra
Carol Rogier	Jonathen Cohen	Mr J & Mrs M Perivolaris	The Bazos Family
Chris Ash	Joyce Furness	Mr J B Horton	The Family of Virginia Kontominos
Chris Sozon	K Mahoney	Mr M & Mrs D Economos	Thi T T Nguyen T/a Darin's Pharmacy
Ctown Pet Aquariu m	Kriston Nicholls	Mr Peter Dogias	Warren & Gloria Hunt
Daisy White	Kyriakos Vasiliou	Mr S & Mrs J Petrakis	Zonta Club
Despo Josephake	Linda Wilson	Mr S & Mrs P Eftymiades	
Dorothy Kwasniak	Lisa & Roy	Mr T Mr C & Ms K Fraietta	
E C & R P Swinnerton	Liverpool & District All Breeds Kennel Club	Mr Theo Kontominos	
Edwin Cordell	M P Solomon	Mr W Hand	
Fairfield HS Child Care Centre		Mrs Bao Jin Kim & Mr Yei Song Kim	
G Giakas			
Gaetano Arena			
Garry & Paula Sheargold			

Activity trend reports

Activity captured across the area shows that the total consultations for new and follow-up patients from July 2003 until June 2005 has significantly increased this year for medical oncology, due to increased staffing. The Radiation Oncology service has been slowly building but have been somewhat hampered by staffing and equipment issues. However, recent improvements in this area should see increasing productivity over the next few months.



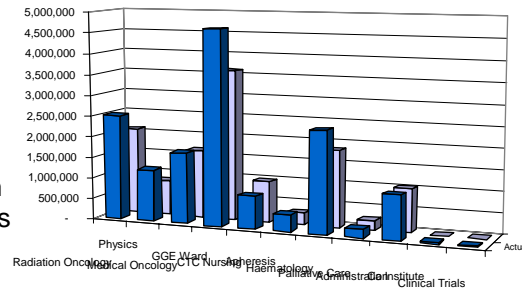
Chemo treatment numbers are mostly static. Radiotherapy treatments have increased, consistent with increased staffing and machine operating time. While the complexity of treatments has also increased.



Financial Report

Liverpool Cancer Services

Liverpool Cancer Services finished the year \$2.5m over budget. Due to the amalgamation, and an upgrade to the financial system, many budgets were not allocated within the financial year. This included the 4% wage increase, budget enhancements from the clinical strategies group up to \$1.4m, as well as cancer institute initiatives up to \$2.1m. Once these are adjusted, the service shows a favourable result.

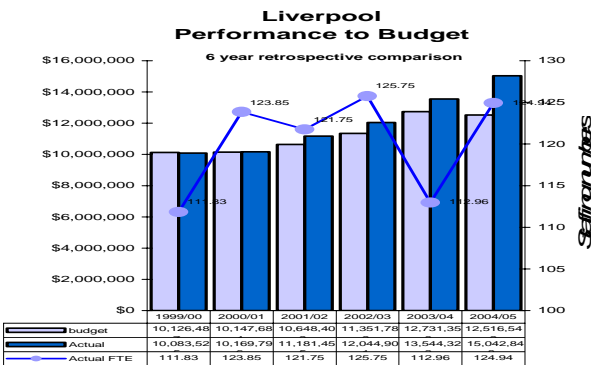


2004/05 Budget & Actual Expenditure Liverpool

	Radiation Oncology	Physics	Medical Oncology	GGE Ward	CTC Nursing	Apheresis	Haematology	Palliative Care	Administration	Ca Institute	Clinical Trials
Actual	2,517,513	1,235,388	1,698,812	4,654,165	796,620	414,701	2,414,522	197,515	1,053,276	41,774	28,563.00
Budget	2,073,246	834,616	1,625,719	3,605,882	990,304	284,851	1,826,456	236,185	1,039,283	-	-

- Employee related expenses:** There was a 4% award increase this year, yet to be allocated to the budget. Registrars overtime was high, and workers compensation adjustments are still to be processed. Several unfunded positions have been filled, awaiting pledged funds from recruitment to the 3rd Linac service, and some new positions that are awaiting the allocation of Cancer Institute and other enhancement funding. This totals \$1.1m.
- Goods and services:** The inpatient ward and haematology overspent on drugs and pathology charges by \$1.4m. Once the clinical strategy enhancement of \$1.2m for drugs is allocated, this reduces the unfavourable effect considerably. Medical consumables were expectedly high for apheresis; this whole service has been provided by obligating the ward to reduce their budget, staff and space - to accommodate this much needed facility.
- Repairs and maintenance:** Contracts for equipment maintenance are under negotiation. Add-on costs have been an expensive issue, necessitating a change in many current arrangements. Medical Physics bear the main burden of these costs, and are reviewing these as they become due.

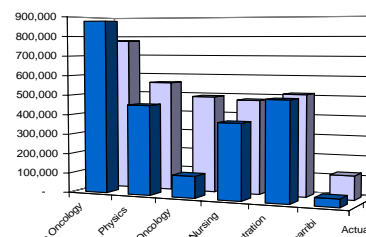
Previous years - comparison of budget performance



To put this in perspective, a 6 year retrospective comparison of the budget against the expenditure for cancer services is pictured

Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre

The Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre completed a full year of service, and finished the financial year with a favourable result. With a staff profile of 30.11 FTE, the full service requires another 20 positions to be staffed to capacity for this service. The budget will need to be re-negotiated to facilitate this.



Macarthur Cancer Services 2004/05 Budget & Actual Expenditure

	Radiation Oncology	Physics	Medical Oncology	CTC Nursing	Administration	Wingicarribi
Actual	877,564	454,241	109,956	380,594	499,280	41,725
Budget	775,657	559,127	490,571	477,448	512,243	120,000