

WIDOW'S SWEET REQUEST | Funds instead of flowers

• Madelaine wong

A generous donation is made to Liverpool Hospital's Cancer Wellness Centre: Father Paul, Ly Thon and Liverpool Hospital general manager Karen McMenamin.

When **Ly Thon**'s husband died unexpectedly in April she asked funeral guests to donate funds instead of flowers which would go to a community cause.

A long-standing member of the **Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Mount Pritchard**, she approached Vietnamese community chaplain **Father Paul Van Chu** for advice about an organisation worthy of \$30,000.

Without hesitating, Father Paul recommended **Liverpool Hospital's Cancer Wellness Centre**, which is identified as a central hospital in the Vietnamese community.

Father Paul was a former cancer patient at the centre and made connections with the Vietnamese staff and patients. He now runs weekly spiritual sessions with patients.



Hospital staff join Ly Thon and Father Paul to celebrate with morning tea | The funds will go towards massage, acupuncture, Tai Chi, yoga, art therapy, relaxation and meditation for cancer patients.

Father Paul translated a message from **Wakeley** resident Ms Ly.

“My husband **Cong Thanh Huynh** wasn't a patient here but there are a lot of Vietnamese patients who attend this hospital,” she said.

“I gave birth to my two sons here and my brother-in-law was treated for heart implications here about seven months ago. Thank you, Liverpool Hospital for all your work.”

Father Paul said he knows the funds will go to good use after seeing how the centre works first-hand.

“I've visited patients here for 30 years. The two radiation therapists who helped me have even joined by church choir. Liverpool Hospital has experience a huge transition – before it was a simple hospital but now it has beautiful new buildings and the technology to match,” he said.

“The cancer department helps a lot of people and something that really stands out is the generosity of the nurses.”

South-West Sydney Local Health District's director of cancer services, **Professor Geoffrey Delaney**, explained what the funds would be used for: “The money will support our Wellness Centre programs which rely on donations, for up to 12 months.

“This means patients can benefit from massage, acupuncture, Tai-Chi, yoga, art therapy, relaxation and meditation as well as participate in our Bravery Unmasked and Active Survivor programs.”

The hospital's general manager **Karen McMenamin** thanked the family for their generous donation.

“We're very grateful to the family at this hard time. The funds will help with program delivery for patients to keep them well.”

This story [WIDOW'S SWEET REQUEST | Funds instead of flowers](#) first appeared on [Liverpool City Champion](#).