



Hats off to wig library

MONICA HEARY

A HOLSWORTHY mother of four said that having access to a wig had helped restore her feelings of self-worth.

She lost her own hair as a result of chemotherapy.

"Having a wig has helped me with my self-worth," the woman, who asked not to be named, said.

"I just needed that self-worth."

Diagnosed with breast cancer last July, the chemotherapy treatments at Liverpool Hospital left her bald.

"Your head gets very cold at night when you don't have hair, so I have to wear something on my head," she recalled.

people stared at me when I went out and I felt like saying 'haven't you seen anyone with cancer before?'"

A visit to Liverpool Hospital's wig library saved her from further embarrassment, and there she also had a choice of scarves and hats.

She became one of about 500 women who use the service every year, with donations supporting the supply of wigs, and patients making donations when they borrow the wigs.

Staff from the hospital's social work department opened the service in 1989 with local services clubs' donations, and, in 1992, Liverpool Council donated \$2000.

Four years later a professional hairdresser and volunteer, Victoria Nasso and her assistant, Berenice Dwyer started running the service.

The acting business manager of the cancer therapy centre, Sandy

Avery, said that it was the generosity of Liverpool's Rotary Club that helped keep the wig library going.

"It is one of the most appreciated services provided to chemotherapy patients who lose their hair as a result of their treatment," she said.

Volunteer Robyn Cavan helps out at the wig library.



A cancer patient tries a new look with help from volunteer Robyn Cavan.

Picture: MAT SULLIVAN