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Going dry to raise money for cancer patients

A fresh haircut for the boss and an impressive total of \$17,300 (and counting) are the results of this year's Dry July at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital.

Fifteen staff members stopped drinking alcohol for the month to raise money for the Bankstown Cancer Centre.

In a final fund-raising push, Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital General Manager Peter Rophail had his head shaved.

"It's for a great cause. The money we raise through Dry July goes to making our patients' time at the Bankstown Cancer Centre more comfortable," Mr Rophail said.

"This year we surveyed our patients on what they think would improve their experience at the Bankstown Cancer Centre.

"The top contenders include an artwork to brighten our walls, magazine subscriptions, including magazines or newspapers in other languages for our CALD patients and pamper packs."

Elena Abraham, who was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma in February and raised more than \$10,000 for the cause, wielded the clippers.

"It was my birthday in July and I wanted to give back and say thanks to the team for giving me another chance at a healthy life and future," she said.

"The team at Bankstown Cancer Centre are beyond amazing."

Last year the team raised money for five new treatment chairs to make patients more comfortable.

"Patients have told us how comfortable the chairs are and they are easy to adjust, which is great for our staff," Mr Rophail said.

"It's always humbling to see the generosity of our community and the dedication of our staff at work. This has been a fantastic team effort and is a credit to all involved.

"Thank you to everyone who has donated to this wonderful cause."

The team's Dry July page is still open here:

<https://www.dryjuly.com/teams/bankstown-lidcombe-hospital-2>