

X September 2009

Mrs A Donor
16 Donor Street
Donortown NSW 2000

Dear <Mrs Donor>

I am confident that, thanks to you, brain cancer patients will have more time

How long is long enough to say good bye?

When diagnosed, Marcella Zemanek's husband Stan, like many other brain cancer patients, was given only a matter of months.

It's not long enough. It's never long enough.

Even then he refused to give in. He went to his grave never uttering the words "good bye" to his much-loved wife and children.

But thanks to you and the donation of <\$X> that you so generously gave earlier this year to the Brain Cancer Research Fund, I am confident that brain cancer patients in the future will have far more time to spend with their loved ones.

Thank you for your support for the Brain Cancer Research Fund

I am delighted to tell you that, with your help, a wonderful \$879,396 has so far been donated to the Brain Cancer Research Fund.

Thankfully, that's enough to cover the whole of the first year of work, plus a little more.

I am immensely grateful for your help.

Let me tell you about the progress we've already made.

The research goals

The ultimate goal of the research is to be able to:

- identify people at risk of glioma (high grade, malignant tumours – these are the ones that kill)
- provide those diagnosed with optimum treatment options
- lobby for further funding and resources.

In short – we need to know a lot more about what causes brain cancer, who gets it and why, how we can identify them and the best ways to treat them.

And we need the money to do it.

<Mrs Donor> I want you to know that I am particularly grateful for your gift to this special Brain Cancer Research Fund as I know that you already give very generously to the work of Cancer Council as a *Breakthrough* <Leader/Visionary/Luminary> and that you have indicated that you are leaving a bequest to Cancer Council in your will.

Your contribution is very important to the research that will extend the lives of cancer patients.

Thank you.

A central bank of information

Research into brain cancer has been hindered by the speed at which brain cancer kills.

The short life span of patients after diagnosis makes it difficult to identify enough patients and conduct the clinical research that is vital to unlocking the secrets to this nasty disease.

But thanks to your generous gift and those of others like you, the program we have been able to put in place to collect data on brain cancer has started with tremendous momentum in both WA and NSW.

Already, since full data collection began at the beginning of July, 11 patients have agreed to participate.

Data has been collected from the Sir Charles Gardiner hospital in Perth, the Royal North Shore Hospital and the Prince of Wales Private Hospital.

We now have

- 9 tumour samples
- 135 blood samples
- 131 completed participant questionnaires.

All this information will effectively provide a bank of DNA for researchers to use.

Extend the lives of brain tumour patients

<Mrs Donor> every year, some 1,800 Australians are diagnosed with brain cancer.

That's 1,800 families devastated; and 1,800 families given a brutally short time to savour their last precious moments together.

For some reason, many of those who get brain cancer are adults in the prime of their life, with young families and big responsibilities.

Of the others, far too many are children.

<Mrs Donor>, right now, only 1 in 4 people who get brain cancer are alive 2 years later.

Survival rates for most cancers have improved over the past decade. , survival rates for malignant brain tumours have not.

I thank you for adding your support to the work of Cancer Council. With your help, I am confident that one day brain cancer will no longer be the death sentence it is today.

Thank you again for your donation.

Warm regards

Dr Andrew Penman
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PS Marcella Zemanek watched her husband Stan, her best friend and constant companion of 30 years, lose his sight, his speech and his life in the short space of 14 months. She was stricken with grief, but threw herself into charity work to raise funds for brain cancer. After being approached at a function by two women, one of whom had lost their 10 year old child to brain cancer, and the other who had lost their 3 year old, she realised there was just no choice; the Brain Cancer Research Fund had to be a success. Thanks to you and others like you, it's well on the way.

PPS. There's never enough time to say good bye to someone you love. But with your help, we'll turn a few months of survival into at least a few years. Thank you again.