

Media statement

21 March 2017

Adem Crosby's mother Lu treated on opening day of SCUH cancer care centre

The mother of Adem Crosby will be treated on the opening day of the state-of-the-art cancer care centre that bears her son's name at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH).

Lu Crosby, who has fought her own battle with breast cancer, will attend the Adem Crosby Centre for an oncologist consultation and infusion treatment on the day that outpatient services commence at SCUH.

The Adem Crosby Centre is SCUH's comprehensive cancer care centre providing services in haematology, medical oncology, radiation oncology and palliative care for patients with cancer and blood disorders.

When radiation oncology commences at the Adem Crosby Centre in June, it will be the first time this service is provided in a public hospital on the Sunshine Coast. Until that time, the existing contractual arrangements with a private provider will continue.

"To be one of the first patients to walk through the doors of the Adem Crosby Centre, as well as being the mother of the amazing teenager this centre was named for, is certainly an honour," Lu said.

"Yet it is also bittersweet to be visiting the centre for the first time as a patient, and like all the other patients coming to SCUH for the first time, I can't help feeling a little apprehensive, uncertain and curious.

"Having this excellent facility on the Sunshine Coast now means so many patients can feel secure knowing they are receiving the best possible treatment close to home.

"Adem inspired so many people going through adversity like he was to accept their journey with strength and dignity.

"If Adem ever saw me feeling down, he would say 'Mum, shoulders back, chin up, breathe... it is what it is', and I know my angel child will be whispering those very words in my ear as I walk through those doors today," Lu said.

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service Oncology Director Dr Jeremy Long said SCUH and the Adem Crosby Centre have added a new spectrum of care for patients and their families.

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service

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“The Adem Crosby Centre really is a one-stop shop and that has massive benefits for patients by making their health care journey safer and easier with less travel and greater access to services and specialists.

“With SCUH, we now have a comprehensive, tertiary-level facility that enables us to expand our cancer and blood disorder treatment capabilities.

“It will also give patients greater access to our Allied Health support in areas such as nutrition, psychology and exercise to enhance their rehabilitation and get them back on their feet sooner,” Dr Long said.

Consultant oncologists and haematologists based at SCUH will continue to provide services to Nambour General Hospital and Gympie Hospital for outpatient clinics, day treatment units and inpatient support.

The centre is named after the late Adem Crosby, a teenager who turned his battle with leukaemia into a Sunshine Coast charity making a profound difference to many lives. Adem started Team Adem in February 2011, shortly after he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukaemia at the age of 17.

Adem was an inspirational young man, whose battle with leukaemia has touched the hearts of many. Even though suffering great adversity, he used his illness and experiences to inspire and help others. As Adem’s condition declined, his desire to make a difference certainly didn’t.

Sadly Adem passed away in May 2013, but his wish to help others lives on through Team Adem. Team Adem continues to help and support organisations that care for patients, families and seriously ill children affected by a cancer diagnosis.

For more information on Adem and his family’s philanthropy, and the Team Adem Blood donation community visit www.teamadem.com.au

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