

Media statement

11 March 2019

Sunshine Coast University Hospital to help shave the world from blood cancer

Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) staff will come together to banish their everyday 9-5 hairdos and embrace a bald new look as they join forces to help beat blood cancer.

The team, led by SCUH Emergency Department Registered Nurse Lee Bundgaard, will be raising funds for the annual Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave, joining 20,000 Australians taking part in the much-loved campaign to help beat blood cancers like leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

Ms Bundgaard said: "After losing a dear friend to Leukaemia, my own personal battle with cancer and watching friends and family fight their own battles, I've decided to donate my hair and raise money at the same time.

"I've had so many fellow cancer patients around me whose hair loss greatly affected their self-confidence. For many it felt like a public sign of their diagnosis.

"There are just too many people effected by cancer in one way or another, anything I can do to make this journey a little easier makes me feel so glad. I am grateful that my outcome has been so positive and feel fortunate to be in the position to help," she said.

More than 100,000 Australians are currently living with blood cancers and another 35 Australians are diagnosed every day. Sadly, an Australian will lose their life to the disease every 41 minutes.

Leukaemia Foundation CEO Bill Petch said organisations like SCUH were integral to helping to fund a future where blood cancer is no longer a death sentence in Australia.

"These people are extraordinary Australians who are stepping up and helping others less fortunate than themselves. It shows enormous bravery, resilience and empathy to shave their heads in support of someone living with a blood cancer." Mr Petch said.

Funds raised through World's Greatest Shave is critical to help the Leukaemia Foundation continue to support all local families affected by blood cancer through advocating for equal access to new therapies and treatments as well as providing educational, emotional and practical support such as transport and accommodation, all at no cost.

For more information, or to sign up to shave or sponsor visit www.worldsgreatestshave.com or phone 1800 500 088 today.

ENDS

Sunshine Coast

Hospital and Health Service

Media statement

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

Watch the SCUH team shave, cut and colour their hair. Interviews available with Lee Bundgaard after her shave.

WHEN: 13 March 2019

WHERE: Meet at SCUH main reception at 11:15

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