



Bringing  
**humanity**  
to **healthcare**



# About us

## **Solaris Cancer Care provides a helping hand to thousands of cancer patients, their families and carers in Western Australia.**

Solaris Cancer Care was founded in 2001, after Dr David Joske, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital's Senior Clinical Consultant in Haematology and a UWA Department of Medicine's Clinical Professor, identified a need for better information and supportive care for cancer patients.

Solaris Cancer Care is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, providing access to primarily free resources and services, to assist with the emotional and physical effects of cancer diagnosis, treatment, recovery and palliative care.

Previously, three out of our six centres were attached to both metropolitan and regional hospitals, including Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, St John of God Hospital in Subiaco and Albany Health Campus, allowing Solaris Cancer Care to work closely with patients' specialists, doctors and nursing staff. However, our Albany centre was forced to move earlier this year due to increased funding for new staff at the Albany Health Campus. We are seeking a new home for our Albany centre so we can get back to providing the same level of support for cancer patients and their families in Albany.

All services are founded on a robust medical base and are consistently refined through our commitment to sound research and education.

At Solaris Cancer Care, we are dedicated to empowering the community through the provision of quality, reliable information on cancer-related programs and support services.

In 2017, Solaris Cancer Care merged with Cancer Support WA, resulting in more than 34 years of combined experience to create an even stronger supportive environment for cancer patients and their carers.

Solaris Cancer Care was the first of its kind in Australia to provide these vital services to cancer patients.

**By combining the best in modern medicine with evidence-based support, we can achieve the best possible patient care.**

## Our services

At Solaris Cancer Care, we provide a range of services to our patients, carers and families, including:

- In-hospital support for patients and families undergoing treatment;
- Education and exercise programs as well as integrated therapies for patients;
- External support services and groups;
- Ongoing research into integrative oncology, patient care and survivorship;
- Education for families, patients, healthcare professionals and the public;
- Carer programs and support groups;
- Survivorship initiatives and support programs; and
- Bereavement programs.

## Funding

For funding we rely on the generosity of our community partners, support from the general public and fundraising events. We currently receive minimal on-going government support.

As the need for our services continues to rise each year, we kindly ask for your support to ensure that Solaris Cancer Care can continue to lend a helping hand to the many Western Australians who are affected by cancer each day.

### **For more information or to donate please contact:**

**P:** 08 9384 3544 **E:** [info@solariscancercare.org.au](mailto:info@solariscancercare.org.au)

**W:** [www.solariscancercare.org.au](http://www.solariscancercare.org.au)

## Our centres

### Metropolitan

#### **Solaris Cancer Care Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital**

DD Block Ground Floor,  
Hospital Avenue  
Nedlands WA 6009

#### **Solaris Cancer Care St John of God Hospital**

12 Salvado Rd, Subiaco WA 6008

#### **Solaris Cancer Care Cottesloe**

80 Railway Street, Cottesloe WA 6011

### Regional

#### **Solaris Cancer Care Great Southern**

Ambulatory Cancer Care Centre  
PO Box 1574, Albany WA 6331

#### **Solaris Cancer Care South West**

72 Brittain Rd, Bunbury WA 6230

#### **Solaris Cancer Care Hedland Well Women's Centre**

2B Leake St, South Hedland WA  
6722



## Our Founder



### Dr David Joske

In 2001, Dr David Joske founded Solaris Cancer Care after identifying a need for better information and supportive care for cancer patients. As the foundation's Chairperson, Dr Joske is a Senior Clinical Consultant in Haematology at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and holds two National Health and Medical Research Council Grants in this area. He has also founded an award-winning Cancer Shared Care Project and the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Brownes Dairy Cancer Support Centre in 2001. He is a Clinical Senior Lecturer with the UWA Department of Medicine and the Haematology sub-editor for the Internal Medicine Journal of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. In 2005, he was awarded the John Curtin Medal and has been a finalist four times for Western Australian of the Year.

In 2016, Dr Joske was the Western Region Social Entrepreneur for the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. The nomination recognised Dr Joske's pioneering role in bringing complementary therapies into the mainstream medical environment in a safe and caring manner. Through Solaris Cancer Care, Dr Joske has enhanced the understanding of integrated care and the importance of physiological and psychological wellbeing.

## Patient story



### Clare Lubich

Clare is a vibrant single mother of two, always looking to put others first. When diagnosed with cancer, she felt like she was battling cancer alone, and reached out for a helping hand.

"When I was going through cancer I felt fearful and alone, I was facing radiation treatment after already undergoing two surgeries. I was worried about how this would affect my teenage daughters; I wanted to be strong as I have always been there for them. With no other family in Perth, I wondered who would be there for me.

Solaris Cancer Care became my sanctuary, a welcome island in a very turbulent and grey sea. The centre gave me the strength I needed.

What I loved most is, it is about taking control over parts of your health journey and feeling empowered and nurtured along the way.

I am so thankful and grateful for the support that was so generously given to me on my road to a healthy and happy life."

## Our Patrons



### **Justin Langer AM**

Former Australian cricketer, Justin Langer AM is one of Australia's cricket legends, representing Australia in 105 Test matches. Justin is currently the coach of the Australian cricket team and was the former coach of the Warriors and Perth Scorchers. Off the field Justin is known for his humanity, humility and community endeavours.

Justin became involved with the foundation after experiencing the difference that Solaris Cancer Care's support centres make to those living with cancer when he lost his mother, Joy-Anne, to a six-year battle with ovarian cancer in 2017.

"This is a fantastic organisation that helps support people with cancer. Solaris Cancer Care achieves something extraordinary and symbolises the challenges faced by so many of those with cancer."



### **The Hon. Michael Mischin MLC**

Michael's partner, Laraine, is a cancer survivor. Their shared knowledge about her journey to recovery provides Michael with first-hand insight into how effective and reassuring the work of groups like Solaris Cancer Care can be to those who face the challenge of confronting cancer with hope and dignity.

In October 2013, Michael accepted the role of Patron of Cancer Support WA - which has now merged with Solaris Cancer Care (2017) - in recognition and support of the important work that organisation did in the community. It is work that continues today through Solaris.

"Cancer Support worked, and Solaris now works, tirelessly to provide broad and comprehensive support to patients and their families at every stage of the cancer journey," Michael said.

**This is a fantastic initiative that helps support people with cancer. Solaris Cancer Care achieves something extraordinary and symbolises the challenges faces by so many of those with cancer.**



## How we help



**\$1.2 million** worth of health care in complementary therapies delivered free in 2020



Delivered **16,000** therapies to cancer patients and their carers in 2020 in spite of the lockdown, travel restrictions and health uncertainties of COVID-19



Cover **2,646,000km<sup>2</sup>**  
Our patients come from across the State from Kununurra to Esperance



**26 peer-reviewed** articles published contributing to the study of complementary therapies



The need for our services **rose by 16%** in 2020, but COVID-19 meant Solaris could only operate at reduced capacity

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## Cancer in Australia



**13,300+** people diagnosed in WA each year



**1 in 2** Australian men and women will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85



**Up to 7,000 cancer cases** Estimated to have gone undiagnosed, or were diagnosed at a later stage in Australia in 2020 due to COVID-19

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