

DATE 28 October 2013

WIGWAM CELEBRATES 10TH BIRTHDAY

The Central Coast Cancer Wig Library, known affectionately as the Wig Wam, is celebrating 10 years of helping patients experiencing hair loss as a result of cancer treatment.

Cancer Services Social Worker Jacqui Sattler said the wig library is an important service which helps create positive self-esteem for cancer patients experiencing hair loss.

“Confronting hair loss brings home the serious nature and reality of cancer. Being prepared for hair loss can help patients regain some control over lives. Sometimes a wig may improve a patient’s self-esteem which in turn may improve their feelings of wellbeing,” Ms Sattler said.

“Often a wig can help give a patient the confidence to maintain social ties and prevent them from becoming isolated.

“The Wig Wam provides a free, professional and sensitive service, as well as lots of care and laughs. The experience is made as positive as possible.”

The Wig Wam was first started by a Committee including the then Cancer Care Coordinator Carolyn Treharne and hairdresser Jan Wright and other interested community members who fundraised to set up the service in Narara Community Centre.

Six months later it moved to the hospital where it has remained ever since.

“The Wig Wam is funded by the community thanks to generous donations from individuals and community groups. It is staffed by volunteer hairdressers who give up their time to assist clients,” Ms Sattler said.

“Jan Wright volunteered for the service for ten years, and we have several other ladies who have been volunteering for five years. We are very grateful for their ongoing support and commitment.

“Each year about 160 women use the service and are provided with wigs, hair pieces, turbans and scarves and given expert advice and support on how to wear them,” she said.

“We started off with 40 wigs and now we have over 400. Women often need them for long periods of time so often we have 200 wigs on loan at any time.

“The Wig Wam is a true example of a community service run by the community for the community. We are proud of what it has achieved over the past 10 years and look forward to helping many more people in the future.”

Event details

What: Wig Wam’s 10th Birthday

Where: Wig Wam, Gosford Hospital (adjacent to the multi-story car park)

When: Wednesday 29th October 2014 at 10.30am