



MEDIA RELEASE
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Cancer Therapies Unit Gets the Green Light to Test Innovative Cancer Treatments for Children with Incurable Cancer

Kids with Cancer Foundation, has pledged \$110,000 to set up a Cancer Therapies Unit at the Centre for Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders (CCC&BD) at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick. The therapies unit will open in June 2008, and will start testing new cancer medications that have the potential to cure the 30% of children whose cancer does not respond to current treatments, such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

"This is an essential innovation for Sydney Children's Hospital's cancer services," said the Head of the new unit, Dr David Ziegler. "There is a growing awareness that we have probably achieved the maximum amount we can achieve with therapies that are currently available."

"It is critical that we look for new ways to treat and cure cancer in children. Patients who will benefit from the new therapies unit include children who suffer negative side effects from current treatments, such as hair loss, nausea and weakening of the immune system. Most importantly we will be able to test new treatments for those children who do not respond to current therapies at all, and who until now have had no other option than being placed on palliative care," said Dr Ziegler.

The generosity of Kids with Cancer Foundation will enable the unit to combine the expertise Dr Ziegler has acquired training overseas at Harvard Medical School, with established research programs. The unit's aim is to translate innovative Australian discoveries from the laboratory bench to the bedsides of children suffering from incurable cancers.

Peter Bodman, Executive Director, Kids with Cancer Foundation said, "Kids with Cancer Foundation are very proud of the long standing relationship we have with Sydney Children's Hospital. Having donated more than \$3,325,000 over the past 10 years to CCC&BD, we are excited to be able to fund this vital innovation in cancer services. We expect the next few years will see the development of new cancer cures, which Australian children will be amongst the first in the world to receive. We are honoured to play a part in helping these remarkable and brave young patients survive cancer, and go on to lead normal, healthy lives."

For more media information, or to arrange a photo opportunity or interview please contact:

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