

News from Steve Bracks and Labor

12 November, 2006

\$25 MILLION FOR OLIVIA NEWTON JOHN CANCER CENTRE

The establishment of a world-class cancer treatment and research centre at the Austin Hospital will be given a **\$25 million** boost by a re-elected Labor Government, Premier Steve Bracks announced today.

Mr Bracks said the new Olivia Newton John Cancer Centre would foster ground-breaking research and provide a healing environment for people seeking treatment.

“This will be a cancer centre for all Victorians, no matter who they are or where they live,” Mr Bracks said.

“The centre will increase the Austin’s inpatient oncology beds from 35 to 44 and same-day beds from 17 to 25.

“Cancer services at the Austin are currently spread across a number of buildings over two separate campuses. This exciting project will consolidate those services into one state-of-the-art centre.

“It will also include a branch of the world-famous Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research.”

The centre will feature cancer wards, a Day Oncology Centre, clinical trials, a Palliative Care Centre, Outreach Centre and a Wellness Centre.

The Health Minister, Bronwyn Pike, said the cost of the project has been estimated at \$75 million, with the Olivia Newton John Cancer Centre Public Appeal aiming to fundraise \$25 million.

“The hospital is well on the way to achieving that goal, having already raised \$10 million. This is on top of a \$10 million contribution from the Federal Government,” Ms Pike said.

Ms Pike said she hoped the \$25 million pledge from a re-elected Bracks Government would encourage Canberra to open its purse strings further to bring the establishment of the Cancer Centre closer to reality.

She said today’s funding commitment built on the Bracks Government’s record investment in cancer services across Victoria.

“It was also the Bracks Government that reversed the previous Liberal government’s plans to privatise the Austin and instead built a new Austin and new Mercy Hospital for Women in Heidelberg,” she said.

...2

WHEN IT
MATTERS

“The new Austin and Mercy hospitals stand as constant reminders of the fact that when it comes to health, Victorians know they have a real choice between Labor and Liberal.

“They can choose a determined team that will continue to invest in services like the Olivia Newton John Cancer Centre and has a plan to meet the health challenges of the future.

“Or they can go back to the Liberals who have announced they will cut \$346 million from hospitals - just like they did when they were last in Government - to pay for their extravagant promises.”

Contact:

ALP Campaign Media Unit
www.alpvictoria.com

Ph 9933 8539
Fax 9933 8563

**WHEN IT
MATTERS**