



Media Release

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Foundation to explore complementary cancer treatments

Complementary therapies like reiki, reflexology and acupuncture are reducing the amount of pain and fatigue cancer patients experience by around two thirds, according to eminent Perth doctor and AMA (WA) member, David Joske.

Dr Joske, who is head of Haematology at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, told guests at the launch of the SolarisCare Foundation earlier this month, he plans to raise \$5 million to continue research on the effects of using complementary medicine together with mainstream medicine and expand services throughout the state.

"While it is too soon to draw links between using a combined medical approach and stopping the spread of cancer, the findings

are clearly showing that patients experience a beneficial reduction in the physical symptoms of the disease and a marked improvement in quality of life," said Dr Joske.

Ian Douglas, who was diagnosed with prostate cancer 18 months ago, is one person who has clearly felt the benefits of complementary treatments carried out at the SCGH Breast Cancer Support Centre (as it was previously known).

"When I first learned about this prostate cancer I was emotionally very fragile," he said.

"But when I started treatment here I became more relaxed, empowered and nurtured.

"The people are very understanding and make you feel loved and supported. You feel like you're not fighting the battle on your own."



Director General of Health Sir Neale Finn, Australian cricketer Justin Langer, SolarisCare Foundation Director Dr David Joske and SCGH Group Executive Director Dr David Russell-Watts, launch the new SolarisCare Foundation at SCGH.

Patron of the SolarisCare Foundation and Australian cricketer legend, Justin Langer said he was inspired by the way Dr Joske was re-humanizing medical care.

"I told a news crew in Queensland a few weeks ago, if I wasn't a professional cricketer I would like to be David Joske," he said. For donations to the Foundation call SolarisCare manager David Oliver on (08) 9246 7630.