



THE HON JUSTINE ELLIOT MP

Minister for Ageing

CHRIS TREVOR MP

Member for Flynn

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sea of Pink as Hook Up Committee Welcome McGrath Breast Care Nurse

Federal Member for Flynn Chris Trevor and Federal Minister for Ageing Justine Elliot today hosted a seaside event to raise awareness for breast cancer and officially recognise Gladstone's first McGrath Breast Care Nurse Donna Nicholls.

Joining the Minister and Mr Trevor for the official event were local members from the Boyne-Island Hook-up Committee.

Breast cancer is the most common invasive cancer diagnosed in women in Australia, with more than 12,000 new cases diagnosed each year. It is the second most common cause of cancer death in women, after lung cancer.

The Rudd Government recognises the importance of increasing breast awareness and the need for clinical and emotional support for women diagnosed with breast cancer and their families.

The Government has committed \$12 million to the McGrath Foundation to fund Jane McGrath's dream that every woman diagnosed with breast cancer and their families would be supported by a breast care nurse.

Minister for Ageing, Justine Elliot said: "Donna Nicholls is one of 44 McGrath Breast Care Nurses to be employed to support women being treated for breast cancer, and their families, under the Federal Government program.

"This initiative allows women diagnosed with breast cancer, especially those in rural and regional areas, to have access to nurses who have specialist breast care skills and training." Minister Elliot said.

Last year the Boyne-Island Hook-up fishing competition attracted 10,000 participants, supporting the organising Committee's fundraising efforts and resulting in a \$13,200 donation to the McGrath Foundation.

Member for Flynn, Chris Trevor said: "Breast cancer impacts on many lives and women from Gladstone will greatly benefit from having a McGrath Breast Care Nurse available locally.

“It is wonderful to see the team from Boyne-Island Hook-up Committee in pink and raising breast awareness.

“Given the Committee’s generous contribution to the McGrath Foundation, it is great that they could be here to officially welcome Donna to her new job and thank her for the dedication and commitment she has already shown in accepting the position which covers the Gladstone and Biloela area,” Mr Trevor said.

“I have no doubt that their contribution raised awareness of the need to have a McGrath Breast Care Nurse for Gladstone and I congratulate them for their outstanding community contributions,” Mr Trevor said.

The McGrath Foundation was co-founded by Mrs Jane McGrath and her husband Glenn McGrath after Jane’s diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer in 2002. During her treatment for secondary cancer in 2003, Jane McGrath had access to a breast care nurse. Sadly, Jane McGrath passed away on 22 June 2008.

For more information, contact Mrs Elliot's office on (02) 6277 7280 or Kyal Butler - 0439 744 949 (Chris Trevor).