**SOLARIS MAY WE SURVIVE TEMPLATE**

**LETTER TO LOCAL MPs/GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

**PURPOSE:**

At a time when the Government is working extremely hard to keep us safe from COVID19, Solaris is still fighting for funding and survival.

We are proud of our Government’s response to COVID19 and we do not want to put unnecessary pressure on our Government at this time, but we do want to remain relevant and in their minds as an organisation that deserves, and needs, financial support.

The more people who share this letter (or your own version) with our local MPs, the greater level of support we will get for all of the Government grants we have applied for, and will apply for in the near future. Please help us to spread the message by sending this as a letter or email. And thank you again for your kind support.

The Solaris Family

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<Your name>

<Your Address>

<Insert Date>

<Insert Members Name>

Member for <.................>

<Insert Address>

<Suburb> WA <Postcode>

Dear <Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr XXXX>,

I am writing to you in the hope to seek your support for a cancer charity that I <have used/volunteer/work>, that is undergoing financial hardship. It is a place that is very close to my heart and makes a significant difference to the lives of thousands of individuals in Western Australia.

Solaris Cancer Care is a helping hand to all cancer patients and their carers, bringing together the best in modern medicine with evidence-based support services to help cope with the emotional and physical side effects of diagnosis, treatment, recovery and palliative care.

Solaris Cancer Care operates across regional and metropolitan areas with five centres, located in Albany, Bunbury, Cottesloe, Subiaco and Nedlands. Three centres are in metropolitan and regional hospitals, including Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, St John of God Subiaco and Albany Health Campus. This allows Solaris Cancer Care to work closely with patients’ nursing staff and doctors.

Solaris Cancer Care is an independently funded not-for-profit. It relies on generous donations from the Western Australian community.

Times are tough for all West Australians as people try to navigate their way through both the health and economic uncertainties which have arisen from COVID-19 and I appreciate that many, many people are in need.

Supporting cancer patients, who are already immune-compromised and fighting for their lives, their carers and families through such uncertain times adds another layer of complexity to an already vastly complicated situation. With 13,300 cancer diagnoses, and three in 10 deaths from cancer each year in Western Australia, it touches many lives regardless of global pandemics and economic meltdowns. **Last year alone, Solaris Cancer Care provided 28,000 treatments to everyday West Australians, valued at $1.74 million.**

Ultimately, Solaris Cancer Care is looking to secure long-term funding of $500,000 per annum, but the process to access government funding is not straightforward. I kindly ask for your advocacy for the following short-term grants that will help Solaris in the interim:

1. Solaris has applied for LotteryWest COVID-19 Relief Fund grant to ensure the continuity and expansion of its essential services to not just cancer patients and their families, but the general public. Many of the evidence-based services we offer are the key to mental health and wellbeing when dealing with a health crisis.
2. Solaris is grateful that the government is currently considering extending our funding agreement for $72,000 that expires in June 2020, which provided support to one of our five centres as a result of our merger with CSWA. This would occur under COVID 19 government contract provisions.
3. A business case has already been presented to the Department of Health for provision of $498,434pa over 5 years, representing an increased service delivery (28,000 in 2019) following Solaris’ merger with Cancer Support WA. This will enable Solaris Cancer Care to navigate COVID 19, assist the health system in responding to mental health concerns, and continue providing support to cancer patients and their families in the longer term.

**How can you help?**

1. **Spread the word to your parliamentary colleagues –** when the time is right,pleasehelp advocate for Solaris Cancer Care to your parliamentary colleagues and ask them to help direct us to financial assistance.
2. **MyCause Fundraising Page –** Solaris Cancer Care have set up a MyCause Fundraising page, which aims to raise $200,000 by the end of May. We would be so appreciative if you could share this page amongst your own networks by sharing [www.solaristhrive.com.au](http://www.solaristhrive.com.au)
3. **Social media –** Solaris Cancer Care is using social media to generate significant awareness and momentum for the campaign. Cancer has touched everyone – please upload a 30-second video or image sharing the value of Solaris Cancer Care to your constituents and the wider Western Australian community using the hashtag #maywesurvive. Solaris Cancer Care will be keeping an eye out for these posts and sharing them on their social media platforms.

Solaris Cancer Care is stepping up to help all West Australians and play our part in meeting these urgent needs allowing you to get on with leading our State through this crisis to emerge stronger than ever. Please support our applications for grants and we will be there, continuing to stand by your side in the trenches until this war is over.

If you require any further information about Solaris Cancer Care, please contact our CEO, David Edwards on david@solariscancercare.org.au.

I thank you for your time to consider Solaris Cancer Care’s call for assistance.

Yours faithfully,

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