

# **Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria**

(Affiliated with the British Empire Cancer Campaign)

## **Report and Accounts**



30th June -- 1947

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C/o. ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS,  
SPRING STREET, MELBOURNE, C.I.

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# President's Report

As President of the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria, I have pleasure in submitting the Eleventh Annual Report for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1947.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

### Radiotherapy Institute.

On the occasion of this report for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1947, members of the Executive Committee of the Council wish to review the steps taken by it in an endeavour to found a Radiotherapy Institute so that all members of the Council, and the public, will be informed of the position.

It will be recalled that at the invitation of the Dunstan Government, Drs. Ralston and Edith Paterson visited Victoria, and at the conclusion of their visit in December, 1943, a report and plan for a Radiotherapy Institute was submitted, through the Anti-Cancer Council, to the Government. The Dunstan Government accepted the report and the proposals made, and provided £50,000 in its Estimates in order to assist in the establishment of the Institute.

The Paterson proposal was to build an Institute on a site to be selected, but the transfer of the Royal Melbourne Hospital to its new quarters appeared to offer the opportunity to make an earlier beginning, at what then became the Central Hospital. In the plans for that Hospital, those for the Institute had to take their turn, with the unfortunate result from the Institute's point of view that, although its plans were already made, its claim to priority and occupancy had to wait on others considered more pressing.

In the meantime, there was a change of Government. When the present Government took office, it confirmed the decision of the Dunstan Government, and honoured the undertaking to provide initial funds to the amount of £50,000 by repeating the provision in the Estimates. Following renewed enquiries and negotiations undertaken by the Executive Committee at the request of the Administrator of the Central Hospital, the Government offered space and facilities for a Radiotherapy Institute at the Central Hospital.

In May, 1946, a Professional and Scientific Committee was appointed by the Government, upon the nomination of the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria. The functions of this Committee were that of a provisional Board of Management of the Institute for the purpose of advising and assisting the Administrator of the Central Hospital in connection with the establishment of the Radiotherapy Institute.

That Committee embarked on certain negotiations and preparations, and as a result submitted a report to the Minister embodying specific recommendations concerning the proposals for the running of the Institute, for appointments to be made, and it asked for authority to proceed with the incorporation of the Institute. By this time certain liabilities had already been incurred by the Administrator of the Central Hospital in anticipation of occupation by the provisional body of the Institute. Steps to secure incorporation by the method of enrolling subscribers were actually taken by the Anti-Cancer Council.

It was at this stage that it was publicly announced that the Board of Management of the Queen Victoria Hospital was to take over and administer the Central Hospital, and that, therefore, the facilities expected to be available for the Radiotherapy Institute could not be provided. Steps were taken by the Executive Committee of the Provisional Committee to have the position defined. The possibility of establishing the Institute temporarily or permanently in the premises to be vacated by the Queen Victoria Hospital was the immediate obvious alternative.

Representatives of the Professional and Scientific Committee of the proposed Institute after, at the Minister's request, inspecting the buildings at the Queen Victoria Hospital, interviewed the Minister of Health on 29th October, 1946, and advised him that the Queen Victoria Hospital could readily be adapted to meet all the requirements of the Radiotherapy Institute. The Minister of Health gave an assurance that whatever requirements of other Institutions competing for space might be, the Radiotherapy Institute would not lack a home.

Encouraged by this assurance and in an endeavour to assure that the Institute would have ample equipment at its command, the Anti-Cancer Council purchased three deep therapy X-ray machines at a cost of £9,723, of which the Victorian Government very kindly provided £4,861/10/-. These machines are at present held in store by the Anti-Cancer Council.

The announcement in the Press in April of this year that portion of the building of the Queen Victoria Hospital was to be used temporarily for the treatment of tuberculous patients indicated that certain decisions concerning their use had been made. Further representations were therefore immediately made to the Minister on the needs of cancer patients.

Members of the Executive Committee of the Anti-Cancer Council have continually before them evidence of the persistence of the pathetic plight of cancer patients through inadequate provision for treatment by radiotherapy, and realising the seriousness of the problem it has repeatedly made the very strongest representations, both in writing and verbally, to the Minister of Health and the Secretary of the Victorian Department of Health.

The present position at the Queen Victoria Hospital is as follows:—

1. The Queen Victoria Hospital remains in possession for an indefinite period of the Jessie McPherson Wing, the transfer of the patients from which is hindered by the presence of tuberculous patients at the Central Hospital and the necessary delays of reconstruction and new construction at the Central Hospital to replace the Jessie McPherson Wing.
2. To make matters worse, these tuberculous patients are to be moved into the Forster Wing of the old Queen Victoria Hospital. This is said to be a "temporary occupation."
3. The nurses' quarters at the Queen Victoria Hospital are occupied by nurses from Prince Henry's and the Women's Hospitals, a situation which shows no immediate prospect of being relieved.
4. A section of the Jessie McPherson and Forster Wings at the Queen Victoria Hospital is to be made available to the Department of Mental Hygiene.

This means that the only section of the Queen Victoria Hospital which would be made available for a Radiotherapy Institute is the Outpatient Department. Therefore, the original proposal for a Radiotherapy Institute is reduced to the establishment of an Outpatient Clinic for cancer therapy, which would not solve any of the grave problems confronting cancer sufferers, and would create major difficulties of its own.

There are two main problems; one is the immediate treatment of patients presenting at the hospitals, and at present turned away in large numbers each week. The second is the practical evolution of a comprehensive plan for co-ordinating cancer services in Victoria and Tasmania, involving the establishment of a Radiotherapy Institute. The first is a hospital problem involving the present treatment institutions, and the second is a new organisation, i.e., a Radiotherapy Institute for which the Anti-Cancer Council has been striving for some years. To solve the second problem means the allocation of the whole of the Queen Victoria Hospital buildings at once and the elimination at all possible speed of all temporary occupation of these premises for other uses.

There can be no possible justification for holding up so important a project for the sake of the temporary solution of difficulties which can and should be otherwise met.

The second solution to the problem is the allocation of a site and the provision of the necessary funds to enable the erection of suitable buildings to accommodate a Radiotherapy Institute. Three valuable years have already been lost in implementing a plan accepted by the present Government and the preceding Government. In the meantime, three deep therapy X-ray machines which the Anti-Cancer Council and the Government have purchased are lying idle. In addition, plans of the metropolitan hospitals for treating cancer sufferers continue to be frustrated by the delay.

It is evident that, without basic decisions by Cabinet on finance, buildings and hospital policy, there is no way out of this situation. Realising this, the Executive Committee has made the strongest possible representations to the Honourable the Minister of Health and the Secretary of his Department. Negotiations are still in progress, but no announcement is as yet possible.

### CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRY.

Under the direction of the Honorary Chief Registrar, a full programme of work has been continued in the Central Cancer Registry. With the passage of time, and consequently the recording of a more comprehensive sample of cases, the value of the Registry is increasing. In addition to routine statistical summaries published by the Registry, the material is proving of use to individual research workers. A useful liaison is being maintained with the Government Statist's Office, and the British Tabulating Machine Company assists the work, from time to time, by gratuitous use of machines. The Executive Committee again desires to place on record its appreciation of the work of Dr. Robert Fowler as Honorary Chief Registrar.

### SAMARITAN FUNDS.

Unfortunately, the acute shortage of hospital beds for all types of patients suffering from cancer is still in existence, and the Anti-Cancer Council is continuing its policy of providing funds for the almoners at public hospitals in an endeavour to alleviate the position.

### RESIGNATION.

In December, 1946, owing to ill-health, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Sir Hugh Devine, resigned from the Committee. It was with the very greatest regret that members of the Executive Committee received and accepted Sir Hugh Devine's resignation, and they desire to record their appreciation of the devoted services which he gave to the work and interests of the Anti-Cancer Council during his many years of office. Members of the Committee feel that all members of the Anti-Cancer Council and of the community should be grateful to Sir Hugh Devine for the work which he carried out. Professor P. MacCallum was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Finance Committee submits the Council's Balance Sheet at 30th June, 1947, supported by the Revenue and Expenditure Account for the twelve months ended that date.

The total revenue received for the 12 months was £5,526/8/8, which included bequests amounting to £3,600. Interest from investments amounted to £1,896/10/8, and the Anti-Cancer Council Fund increased during the year by £2885/0/3.

The general administrative expenditure has not shown any increase, and the figure of £698/15/6 is approximately the same as the corresponding figure for the 12 months ended 30th June, 1946.

The expenditure on the work of the Central Cancer Registry has increased to £890/8/6, as compared with £269/4/4 for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1946. This increased expenditure, however, was to be expected, and the total amount expended is within the amount allocated for this work by the Executive Committee. It must be borne in mind that the Registry had not resumed its activities for a full period of 12 months when the accounts at 30th June, 1946, were prepared.

A close liaison has been maintained between the Executive Committee and the Chairman of the Finance Committee, who has, from time to time, been kept informed of matters under consideration by the Executive Committee.

The amount of £4,352/14/6 at the credit of the Council's current account with the National Bank of Australasia Ltd. at 30th June, 1947, has been allowed temporarily to remain uninvested, as the Finance Committee realised that, in the event of the proposal for the establishment of a Radiotherapy Institute materialising, it would be necessary for the Anti-Cancer Council to meet some of the initial expenses either by way of a grant or as an advance to the Institute.

Official certificates verifying the existence of the Council's investments have been examined by members of the Finance Committee and the Council's Auditor, Mr. H. Taylor, of Messrs. Young & Outhwaite, conducts an audit at various intervals.

### MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.

The Medical and Scientific Committee has met on three occasions during the past twelve months. At these meetings, the Chairman of the Executive Committee has informed members of the Medical and Scientific Committee of the actions taken by the Executive Committee in an endeavour to further the establishment of the proposed Radiotherapy Institute. The Medical and Scientific Committee notes with concern that, in spite of every endeavour on the part of the Executive Committee to bring the full proposal to fruition, buildings have not been made available by the Victorian State Government to house the Institute.

The Medical and Scientific Committee endorses the action of the Executive Committee in purchasing, with financial assistance from the Victorian State Government, three deep therapy Machines, so that treatment equipment will be available immediately the buildings for the Institute are provided.

At the request of the Executive Committee, the Medical and Scientific Committee considered the full plan for the Central Cancer Registry, and it recommended to the Executive Committee that the full plan of work for the Central Cancer Registry is desirable, and that it should be continued.

Professor P. MacCallum, Professor F. M. Burnet and Mr. Balcombe Quick were appointed a Statistical Sub-Committee of the Medical and Scientific Committee to advise Dr. Robert Fowler on the work of the Central Cancer Registry.

During the twelve months under review, Professor P. MacCallum was appointed to the Chairmanship of the Executive Committee, and, therefore, resigned as Chairman of the Medical and Scientific Committee.

Dr. John O'Sullivan was appointed Chairman of the Medical and Scientific Committee.

(Sgd.) F. R. CONNELLY,

President.

5th September, 1947.



**ANTI-CANCER COUNCIL OF VICTORIA BALANCE SHEET, 30th JUNE, 1947.**

LIABILITIES.				
Sundry Creditors .....		291	2	0
<b>Anti-Cancer Fund—</b>				
Balance, 30th June, 1946 .....	55,418	16	6	
Add Balance transferred from Revenue and Expenditure Account .....	2,885	0	3	
	<u>58,303</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>	
Less Deficit on Realisation of Investments .....	20	14	3	
		58,283	2	6
		<u>£58,574</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>

ASSETS.				
National Bank of Australasia Ltd.—Current Account .....	4,352	14	6	
Investments in Authorised Trustee Securities, at cost .....	49,000	0	0	
<b>Furniture and Fittings—</b>				
Balance, 30th June, 1946 .....	143	0	0	
Additions, at cost .....	9	9	9	
	<u>152</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	
Less Depreciation written off .....	15	9	9	
				137 0 0
<b>Instruments and Equipment—</b>				
Balance, 30th June, 1946 .....	223	0	0	
Add Purchase of 3 Deep Therapy X-ray Machines .....	9,723	0	0	
	<u>9,946</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
Less Grant from Victorian State Government .....	4,861	10	0	
				5,084 10 0
		<u>£58,574</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>

**REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 30th JUNE 1947.**

<b>DR. To Grants—</b>				
Commonwealth Department of Health re Physical Service .....	500	0	0	
Samaritan Funds—				
Royal Melbourne Hospital .....	100	0	0	
Alfred Hospital .....	10	0	0	
General Expenses—				610 0 0
Salaries .....	468	17	4	
Printing and Stationery .....	50	13	6	
Postage, Telephones and Telegrams .....	26	18	0	
Lighting and Power .....	11	16	7	
Advertising .....	22	17	0	
Sundry Expenses .....	5	15	6	
Insurance .....	49	6	2	
Depreciation .....	15	9	9	
Cleaning Expenses .....	21	7	6	
Scholarship Fees .....	3	0	0	
Audit Fee .....	10	10	0	
Pay-roll Tax .....	12	4	2	
Cancer Information Bureau—				698 15 6
Salaries .....	384	13	9	
Printing and Stationery .....	5	14	0	
Postage .....	9	2	8	
Travelling Expenses .....	42	14	0	
Central Cancer Registry—				442 4 5
Salaries .....	514	15	0	
Printing and Stationery .....	65	18	11	
Postage .....	3	16	1	
General Expenses .....	5	18	6	
Grants to Hospitals—				
Royal Melbourne .....	100	0	0	
Alfred .....	100	0	0	
St. Vincent's .....	100	0	0	
	<u>300</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
Balance transferred to Anti-Cancer Fund .....				890 8 6
		2,885	0	3
		<u>£5,526</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

<b>CR. By Interest .....</b>	1,896	10	8
Bequests .....	3,600	0	0
Donations .....	29	18	0

(Sgd.) P. MacCALLUM, Chairman of the Executive Committee.  
 (Sgd.) HAROLD LUXTON, A/Chairman of the Finance Committee.  
 (Sgd.) H. G. WHEELER, Secretary.

I have audited the books and accounts of the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria for the year ended 30th June, 1947, and certify that the above Balance Sheet is correct and in accordance with the books. I have verified the existence at 30th June, 1947, of the funds and investments shown in the Balance Sheet and that all income due from investments during the year has been received.  
 (Sgd.) HERBERT TAYLOR, Auditor. YOUNG & OUTHWAITE, Chartered Accountants (Aust.)  
 11th July, 1947. 368 Collins St. Melbourne