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Girls Night Out

Tuesday 29th July, 2014

GIRLS NIGHT OUT FUNDRAISING EFFORTS TIP \$175,000

Echuca Moama Girls Night Out has celebrated a major milestone this month, ticking over the \$175,000 fundraising mark for Echuca Regional Health's oncology department.

The substantial figure was reached at GNO's 11th fundraising event in Echuca on July 18, which tipped another \$22,000 into the GNO Oncology Department Supportive Care Fund.

Since the initiative began in 2008, the fund has been making a meaningful difference in the community by providing extra care and financial support for local men and women living with cancer.

In addition to raising funds for the oncology department, GNO events have helped secure vital funding from the McGrath Foundation for a dedicated McGrath Breast Care Nurse who commenced work at ERH in 2012.

"Every day in our community, people's lives are turned upside down by a cancer diagnosis," said GNO committee member Leonie Canham.

"They must endure a physical and emotional rollercoaster of tests, operations, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, but when they arrive at the oncology ward at ERH our wonderful oncology nurses are able to offer them something special – a gift from the women of GNO.

"It may be a rent payment, a wig, a travel voucher, some child care, a massage, the list goes on - and the supportive care agreement forged between GNO and ERH gives the oncology team the authority to make the call where and when they see the need.

"GNO events have been embraced by thousands of women in our community over the years and every one of them should look at their involvement in the cause with great pride and know that the support they have given, no matter at what level, is making an enormous difference to so many."

Since 2008, Moama Bowling Club has contributed a hefty \$33,000 to the cause as major sponsor of GNO.

"MBC contributes to our events through direct sponsorship and event hosting year in, year out," Ms Canham said.

"Their ongoing financial support is an incredible act of corporate citizenship and we are extremely grateful for their support."

MBC Chief Executive Officer Paul Barnes said the GNO initiative was an outstanding example of what could be achieved when a group of people set their hearts on making a difference in their community.

"GNO events not only aim to support those in the community who are dealing with cancer, but also to remember and acknowledge those precious people whose lives have been tragically cut short by the illness," Mr Barnes said.

"Since 2008, the partnership between GNO and MBC has grown from strength to strength and we are incredibly proud to support this grassroots initiative which is making an enormous difference in the everyday lives of so many people."