



**Clinical
Oncological
Society of
Australia**

Media Release

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New booklet answers patients' questions about cancer

GOLD COAST: A new guide providing practical advice and information on services including legal and financial support for Australians affected by cancer, was launched today (18/11) at a national cancer conference.

Understanding Your Rights. A practical guide for cancer patients, their families and friends, developed by Cancer Council, was launched at the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia's Annual Scientific Meeting.

Dr Kendra Sundquist, Manager Supportive Care Development at Cancer Council NSW, said the new booklet would help cancer patients and their loved ones become better informed.

"This booklet makes it clear to someone on their cancer journey what they should expect and what they can access," Dr Sundquist said. "A lot of people have no idea that it's okay to ask for information – whether it is about their disease, available services and support, or even information about financial assistance."

"For many people, a cancer diagnosis is the start of a long and often complicated road through the health care system. Navigating through this system can be challenging, particularly when you are dealing with the physical and emotional effects of cancer.

"This booklet outlines what patients and their supporters can reasonably expect of their doctors and the health care system. It is about working in partnership – not making demands of doctors, and knowing the patients and families responsibilities.

"We hope this booklet helps people affected by cancer feel comfortable to ask their doctors questions and to take an active role in their cancer care. It also provides information on practical issues such as paying for treatment and accessing financial assistance and community services."

Understanding Your Rights. A practical guide for cancer patients, their families and friends is free and available from Cancer Council NSW and will be released nationally later this year.

Booklet and photos available on request.

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