

press clip



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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

Support for treatment

CANCER patients across the Shoalhaven shire who rely on their cars to travel to and from treatment will benefit from financial support Can Assist Shoalhaven has received from greenslips.com.au.

The partnership between greenslips.com.au and Can Assist, the volunteer network that provides financial and practical support to people affected by cancer and living in country NSW, was forged in 2019, with funding provided to help pay for cancer patients' green slip insurance.

Can Assist Shoalhaven persident David Boyle said the financial impact on a cancer patient and their family is significant.

"They will have one less bill to cover and can direct their money to something else like medication," he said.

"It gives us one more way to help people and its important they know this financial support is available."

Client liaison officer Jill Smith agreed the support would have an impact.

"A lot of cancer patients are the main breadwinner and have young families, or they're older people on aged pensions," she said. "Paying for their green slips frees up money for other things that they need."

They stressed that having a car was essential for many cancer patients for a myriad of reasons: limited public transport in the area, bus

timetables not fitting in with treatment sessions and the privacy of having their own vehicle.

"You just want to go home after treatment," Jill said. "Often you don't feel well and just need to go home and lay down."

David, whose wife is a breast cancer survivor, said having a car meant the ability to go to treatment whenever a person needed and wanted.

"Some people have to travel to Wollongong or Sydney, depending on the cancer, and the round trip can take several hours," he said. "Flexibility and freedom is key to managing your medical appointments."

The number of people seeking assisting from the group has dropped significantly due to the COVID-19

pandemic. In the 2019 financial year, Can Assist Shoalhaven provided more than \$34,000 to 78 cancer-affected families, while in the five months to October 2020, they provided a total of \$5000 to 11 families.

"We believe people aren't seeking treatment due to COVID; they're staying away from hospitals and cancer centres," Jill said.

"But it's important that people don't neglect their health and don't put off getting important tests and screening for cancer. We're here to help and we urge people to contact us if they

need assistance."

Can Assist Shoalhaven is funded entirely by local donations, local fundraising events and corporate support such as that provided by greenslips.com.au. All money raised stays local to help the region's cancer patients.

"We're back and raising funds again. We're here to help those in need and to welcome new members," says David.

For more information on how to support Can Assist, visit www.canassist.org.au.



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HELPING HAND: Can Assist Shoalhaven president David Boyle and client liaison officer Jill Smith