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**\*\*\*Media release\*\*\***

## **Olivia and Abbott join forces for cancer**

Olivia Newton-John celebrated the Australian Government's \$10 million contribution to her cancer appeal with Federal Health Minister, Tony Abbott, at the Austin Hospital today.

The funding is a major boost to the public appeal, which aims to raise \$50 million to build the new state of the art centre based at the Austin Hospital.

Once built, the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Centre will be like no other in Australia – a dedicated precinct providing a comprehensive range of services and facilities for cancer treatment, education, training and research.

"I am delighted that the Commonwealth Government has committed this substantial funding to the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Centre," Ms Newton-John said.

"I want to create the facility I dreamed of when I was going through cancer."

"The cancer centre will provide patient-centred care for the body, mind and spirit and will be the best of both worlds – a place for excellence in ground breaking research and a place of support and healing," she said.

Austin Health CEO, Dr Brendan Murphy also expressed his appreciation to the Commonwealth Government for the funding boost.

"This ten million dollars provides welcome support for the fundraising effort of the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Centre Appeal and brings the project closer to implementation," Dr Murphy said.

"The Australian Government's contribution recognises the academic leadership that we pride ourselves on here at Austin Health."

“We provide research, teaching and training and all of these areas will be a major part of the new comprehensive cancer centre,” he said.

In partnership with the international Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Austin Health conducts pre-eminent basic and clinical cancer research. The Commonwealth Government funding will be used to construct the purpose built research space, which will allow the Austin’s doctors and researchers to continue this vital work.

The Olivia Newton-John Cancer Centre will include:

- Cancer Wards
- Day Oncology Centre
- Clinical Trials
- Palliative Care Centre
- Palliative Care Day and Outreach Centre
- Radiation Therapy
- Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research
- Wellness Centre

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