

# Impact Report

More than simply a means of getting people 'from A to B', the Father Atanasio Gonelli Charitable Fund Patient Bus enables hundreds of elderly and disadvantaged patients each month to access Lifehouse's vital cancer services.

In March 2015, the Father Atanasio Gonelli Charitable Fund made a generous grant of \$10,000 to Chris O'Brien Lifehouse in support of patient transport services. To honour this generous gift, our volunteer services team purchased a 12-seater Toyota Hiace mini bus – which continues to provide a much appreciated, valuable service to our patients.

The Father Atanasio Gonelli Charitable Fund Patient Bus transports patients and their carers between the hospital and the Central Railway Station, connecting patients from regional NSW and the greater Sydney region and enabling them to more easily reach their treatment.

The transport service is manned by volunteers and operates each weekday for patients undergoing surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse. It provides on average 475 rides per month.

The service provides convenient, complimentary transfers for patients who have no other means of attending their appointments.

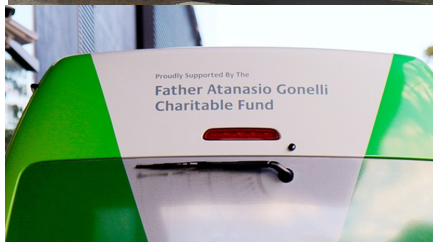
#### **This valuable service delivers:**

- 16 rides each day
- 109 rides each week
- 475 rides each month
- 5,700 rides each year

#### **Helping Rural & Disadvantaged Patients Make their Appointments**

Many of our patients come from remote, rural and regional locations – and even interstate – to access the world-class cancer treatment delivered at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse. Owing to a range of circumstances, which may include the financial stress that cancer imposes (loss of income etc.), a proportion of our patients are unable to afford a taxi from the Central Railway Station to the hospital. Others are simply too sick to negotiate public transport.

This is why the Father Atanasio Gonelli Charitable Fund Patient Bus plays such an important role. Without this free and convenient service, the risk of patients missing essential treatments and check-ups would be greatly



increased. As such, your generous gift has made, and continues to make, a significant positive difference to quality of life for our cancer patients, their carers and families.

#### **Words from a Volunteer Driver**

Terry, a volunteer bus driver, says: "I started volunteering at Lifehouse because I'm retired and wanted to do something worthwhile. My daughter, Erin had recently started working here as a nurse so we became aware of the volunteer program.

"I drive the patient shuttle bus between the country platforms at Central Station and Lifehouse.

"I love helping those who genuinely need help. They really appreciate the assistance. The most surprising thing about volunteering at Lifehouse has been that generally the patients have a cheerful outlook, which is quite surprising given what they're going through."

**Your generous gift has made, and continues to make, a significant positive difference to quality of life for our cancer patients, their carers and families.**