

Barbara Perry MP

Minister for Local Government
Minister Assisting on Health (Mental Health and Cancer)



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Western Sydney hospital cancer care among the best in the world

A Western Sydney hospital's cancer care program has just been recognised as one of the best in the world, awarded international accreditation by the European Society for Medical Oncology.

Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) Barbara Perry said Westmead Hospital's Cancer Care Centre is the first, and only, cancer care centre in NSW to be awarded the international accreditation.

"Westmead Hospital has been recognised for their program that integrates cancer services such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy with palliative and support care," Ms Perry said.

"This means that cancer patients are able to receive all of the care they need under one roof, providing more stability at a difficult time.

"This award brings international recognition to a hardworking, innovative group of staff that includes doctors, nurses, social workers, physiotherapists and occupational therapists."

The services offered at the Cancer Care Centre were reviewed by a panel of international cancer experts prior to being awarded the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) accreditation.

"The Centre has joined the prestigious ranks of cancer centres in Europe, India, Argentina, Hong Kong, Canada, the USA," Ms Perry said.

"Less than two years after opening the Centre has already achieved an international reputation for research and cutting edge technology. But this award is different, it has been given for excellence in the human side of care."

Head of the Westmead Cancer Care Centre, Professor Paul Harnett said the award recognises the excellent personalised care that is provided by staff.

"The award recognises more than our use of cutting edge technology. It reflects our staff commitment to caring for patients and their families throughout their cancer treatment and palliative care journey," Professor Harnett said.

"The aim of palliative care is to provide relief and support to our patients, their families and carers to improve their quality of life when they are dealing with some of the most life threatening illnesses. It involves supporting patients through the physical symptoms and the psychological distress caused by cancer."