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Library of wigs

CAMPSIE resident Ayda Soydash was one of the first to donate her wigs to the new "wig library" at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA), however donations are needed to get this much-needed service up and running.

Despite advances in cancer control, one in two men and one in three women are at risk of developing cancer in their lifetime in Australia, and Ayda was one of them.

She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006, and found one of the most difficult things to adjust to was losing her hair due to chemotherapy.

Ayda donated three wigs and about 15 scarves to the library, and urges people in the community to donate money to help purchase new wigs, which cost around \$200.

"It's very important that people support this because not everyone can afford to buy wigs, donations will give the Sydney Breast Cancer Foundation (SBCF) the opportunity to be able to supply cancer patients with stock for the wig library," Ayda said.

The SBCF provided an initial \$10,000 to set up the wig library, and are appealing to the public to donate money to help purchase about 200 wigs a year, to help women cope with hair loss due to cancer treatment.

SBCF President Deborah West said many people find hair loss can be a constant reminder of their cancer and can cause very strong emotions including depression frustration and distress.

"The new wig library provides a practical way to solve hair loss by providing free wigs, head scarves and turbans and a range of necessary accessories including under-caps, shampoos and other products," Ms West said.

The wigs are provided free of charge for cancer patients suffering hair loss due to treatment of cancer.

Donations can be made online at sbcf.org.au or by calling 02 9515 6345.



Ayda Soydash has donated her old wigs to the new wig library at RPA, and is encouraging people to donate money so new wigs can be bought to help cancer patients suffering hair loss.

Night pay request

NIGHT duty nurses at Canterbury Hospital were represented as part of the NSW Nurses Association's (NSWNA) advocacy for a higher night duty penalty rate before the NSW Industrial Relations Commission (IRC) last month. NSWNA argued that the night penalty rate of 15 per cent has not risen for 34 years, and there needs to be a pay increase. A NSW Health spokesperson declined to comment as the case is before the IRC.