

11.3.05

Director of Community Affairs  
Canberra ACT

Dear Sir/Madam.

I am writing re Senator Peter Cooke's enquiry into services provided for people with cancer and my experiences with the Gawler Foundation in the Yarra Valley Victoria.

Having suffered Lymphoma 5 years ago ,I made contact with the Gawler Foundation and found the services offered,( and there are many )to be absolutely life changing and a lot to do with the fact that I am still alive. From 2-10day retreats, to telephone counseling, diet and attitude ,and learning to face up to perhaps death one day.....all these and more are offered and have made me a much better and healthier person. Like a lot of people I can not afford the live in retreats, but have been to day meditation sessions etc. and still practice every day what I have learned through Ian Gawler.

When ever cancer touches my life, I always tell the person to give the Foundation a call and they will help.....and they do.

One story, a dear friend was suffering from bone cancer I organized a group of friends to put in the cash to sent him to a 4 day retreat, which he absolutely enjoyed and said he got a lot out of. At his funeral months later his family told me how the retreat brought him peace that he had not experienced for years and years and he dealt with hidden family relationship problems and learned how to face death. They said it totally changed him and his attitude to his family in the last months of his life and that he died a very "peaceful" man.

Thank you The Gawler Foundation.

Sincerely

Rosemary Carter