



Media release

Wednesday 5 August 2020

Ballarat Community Rewards cancer research

Ballarat business Ryan's IGA has recently passed on a donation of \$4400.00 to the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute, as part of its ongoing Community Reward program across its stores.

The funds are greatly appreciated at this time, as the non-government funded Institute navigates its way through the Covid-19 pandemic. With many of its fundraising programs and events put on hold, donations such as this are vital in assisting in the sustainability of the research program.

Ben Ryan, General Manager of Ryan's IGA said "We have a long-standing relationship with the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Centre and look forward to continuing supporting their ground-breaking cancer research into the future."

The 'Community Rewards' program has seen the distribution of over \$1 million dollars to community clubs, schools and charities across the Ballarat community over 12 years.

"Through the Community Rewards program we aim to support our local charities fundraising efforts and give back to the communities that support us."

IGA Ryan's operates three supermarkets across Ballarat - Northway, Pleasant Park, Mount Clear - and stores in Torquay and Beaufort. It also operates two standalone liquor stores and employs approximately 400 staff.

Professor George Kannourakis said "Cancer is not elective, and our research must continue during this time. We are so thankful for donations such as this and the Ballarat community for its wonderful long-term support."

The Institute has maintained research momentum during lock down and currently has 8 PhD students from Federation University and 13 senior scientific staff. The program is community funded and the only cancer research Institute in regional Australia. Key projects that the funding goes to assist is:

- Ovarian cancer
- Breast cancer
- Immunology
- Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia
- Langerhans cell histiocytosis
- Renal cancer

Photo opportunity available at the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute Friday 7 August at 3:30pm.

All media enquiries, please contact Sarah Stapleton- Marketing and Fundraising Manager at FECRI on 0475 383 687 or sarah@fecri.org.au.

Please tag the Institute on all social media using @fionaelseycr