



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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Parliamentarians unite on Teal Ribbon Day

This Teal Ribbon Day, parliamentarians will join the Hon. Tanya Plibersek, Minister for Health, and key cancer organisations at Parliament House to raise awareness of ovarian cancer.

“On average, four women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer every day in Australia and it remains the leading cause of gynaecological cancer deaths in this country,” said Dr Helen Zorbas, CEO of Cancer Australia.

“The number of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer in Australia has increased in recent decades, from 835 diagnosed in 1982 to 1,272 in 2008. Projections show this trend is set to continue with an estimated 1,488 women expected to be diagnosed with the disease in 2015.”

“Despite improvements in the survival rate in recent years, the prognosis for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer remains poor,” said Dr Zorbas. “About two thirds of women are diagnosed with advanced stage disease, and as a result only four out of 10 women diagnosed with ovarian cancer will be alive five years after diagnosis.”

Women diagnosed with ovarian cancer face a complex range of issues associated with the disease and its treatment. To support women diagnosed with ovarian cancer, Ovarian Cancer Australia is launching the new edition of their free resource, *Resilience*.

“Like most women who are diagnosed with ovarian cancer, I had a lot of questions when I found out I had the disease, so I believe *Resilience* will be a great source of information for women wanting to know more about the condition, treatment options, living well and the support services that are available,” said Paula Benson, Chair of Ovarian Cancer Australia and an ovarian cancer survivor.

“The guide also includes practical advice from women who have been diagnosed, as well as diary sections for women to record their personal information – including their medical history, healthcare and support teams, treatment and experience with chemo,” said Ms Benson.

“A gynaecological cancer diagnosis can also have an impact on a woman’s body image, relationships and sexuality,” said Dr Zorbas. “Yet information tailored to address these issues is often neglected. It’s important for women to be able to access the right information at the right time.”

Cancer Australia is developing a new resource for women with gynaecological cancers, to support them to communicate more openly about psychosexual issues with their treatment team and partner.

*Teal Ribbons are available from Ovarian Cancer Australia: www.ovariancancer.net.au
For more information on ovarian cancer, go to: <http://canceraustralia.nbcc.org.au/ovarian-cancer/about/about-ovarian-cancer>*

Media contacts:

Cancer Australia: Nina Olle, 0438 209 833

Ovarian Cancer Australia: Stephen Richardson, Haystac, 0438 262 869