



## About Can Assist

- Can Assist is a charity which provides accommodation, practical support and financial assistance to country people in NSW affected by any type of cancer.
- Can Assist's vision is that every country community, family and individual should have equitable access to cancer care and support services.
- In 2012 Can Assist provided \$1.6 million in financial assistance and helped 2,563 country people receive the cancer treatment they need.
- Can Assist has been helping country families affected by cancer for over 57 years and has 50 branches in country towns across NSW supported by over 2,900 volunteers.
- Can Assist operates the Sydney Accommodation Service at Quest Bondi Junction and Lilier Lodge in Wagga Wagga, which provide a home-away-from-home for country cancer patients who need to travel for treatment.
- Winner of Premier's Award for Excellence in service delivery 2012. This award recognises of the high quality of service which Can Assist supplies to country people in NSW so they are better able to deal with the inequities that rural and regional people face when dealing with a cancer diagnosis.
- There is an ongoing need for country cancer patients to travel for Sydney for treatment, hence an ongoing need for Can Assist to provide our services.
- In 2012 Can Assist sold its historic Sydney accommodation facility, which had been a home-away-from home for country cancer patients for 51 years. The sale was a strategic move to work towards securing a more sustainable service model.
- Can Assist is looking to acquire a new facility which will house cancer patients that need to travel to Sydney for treatment and generate additional income to fund support programs.

### **Can Assist provides its services to help bridge the gap between city and country cancer patients:**

- Rural cancer patients are 35% more likely to die within five years of diagnosis than patients in cities.<sup>i</sup> Advances in cancer treatment have not been shared with rural and regional patients.
- For some cancers, remote patients are up to three times more likely to die within five years of diagnosis.<sup>ii</sup>
- There is a 6% increase in mortality risk for each 100 km increment in distance from the nearest radiotherapy facility.<sup>iii</sup>
- Cancer survivors living in rural areas have greater anxiety and distress levels and more emotional wellbeing concerns than cancer survivors living in larger cities.<sup>iv</sup>

**For more information visit: [www.canassist.com.au](http://www.canassist.com.au)**

<sup>i</sup> Cancer in Rural Australia, National Rural Health Alliance Fact Sheet 8, January 2012

<sup>ii</sup> Cancer in Australia, NRHA Fact Sheet 8, January 2012

<sup>iii</sup> *Distance to the closest radiotherapy facility and survival after a diagnosis of rectal cancer in Queensland*, Medical Journal of Australia, 19 Sept 2011

<sup>iv</sup> Psycho-Oncology, Vol 19, Issue 6, June 2010