

Minutes  
 COUCH Support Sub-committee  
 Held at Centacare Cairns, 195 Abbott Street, Cairns  
 Thursday MAY 10 2007 5pm

**Present:** Carol Leary, Colleen Blunt, Hugh Woolford, Helga Biro, Rachel Johns

**Guest:** Margaret Shearer – Cancer Care Services, Cairns Base Hospital

**Apologies:** Max Plummer

**Meeting opened:** 5.00 pm

**Meeting Closed:** 6.00 pm

**Minutes from previous meeting:**

- (a) Amendments – None.
- (b) Actions completed from previous meeting –
- (c) Resolve to accept minutes of previous minutes – Accepted. (M) (S)

**Confirmation of proposed agenda:**

**General Business**

**Guest Speaker – Margie Shearer:**

Margie provided the group with some valuable information.

- A considerable amount of generalist supports are available in the community but there is very little that is cancer specific.
- Private patients are disadvantaged in so far as they have to pay for all their follow up care such as OT & Physio.
- GAPS: Breast cancer support group & Women's cancer support group
- Specialist Breast Nurse is funded in a part-time position of 20 hours per week and this really needs to be a full-time service.
- One in 100 men experience breast cancer.

Margie was invited to join the group and she accepted the invitation. Welcome Margie.

**Actions Required**

Action	Who	By When	Status
Establish an affiliation with <b>Dragons Abreast</b> . Niki to contact the local group and source out the possibility of affiliation.	Helga to ask Niki	Next meeting	

**Next Meeting**

Thursday JUNE 14, 5pm at Centacare Cairns, 195 Abbott Street.