

Letter to The Editor:

I am sorry Carolyn Unwin (23/10) but I would like to alert you to the reality of the COUCH campaign.

COUCH remains genuinely committed to **ALL** people and the **WHOLE** community of Cairns and Tropical North Queensland. You are correct to believe that every dollar of donations should stay in the north for public cancer treatment facilities for ALL cancer patients. The insinuation that "business people" are behind this worthwhile cause simply to "line their pockets" is absolutely incorrect. People involved with COUCH have committed many, many, many voluntary hours and energy to the public good to improve cancer health care in Cairns.

Options for location and who will manage the facility, public or private, are still very much on the table. In the event the facility is privately managed will not in any way restrict access by public cancer patients. It will be equally accessible by public and private patients alike via Medicare protocol. Whether low income or high income has no bearing. No one will go untreated because of their colour, creed or financial standing. All cancer patients will be treated based on their clinical needs.

The reason privately managed facilities, per negotiation with Queensland Health, are an option is because they have a proven track record, are successful with annexed support medical & training facilities, and can get "up-&-running" in a shorter time frame than a similar facility within the public system. COUCH hopes to achieve state-of-art success for ALL Northerner's within the shortest possible time frame. A fully operational Radiation Oncology Clinic and Cancer Care Centre needs a viable business plan and a sustainable future. There is no strategic financial gain in this project for anyone.

Please contact COUCH www.couch.org.au for clarification of our good and sincere intention. Be positive, be assured, on a day not far away, **ALL people of TNQ** will be proud of cancer treatment facilities provided for the use of ALL.

Yours in Community,

Bob McGill
Director of Cairns COUCH Ltd.
Public Relations