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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **COUCH not in favour of Slumber:**

Directors of COUCH recently met with Angela Beckett, District Manager Queensland Health and Mr. Shane Rendalls of KPMG to provide detail of COUCH's submission for a comprehensive cancer care precinct, complete with radiotherapy to service the population of Tropical North Queensland.

Mr. Rendalls has been contracted by Qld. Health to provide independent advice and assessment of COUCH's proposal to build a state-of-art cancer treatment centre on a \$2M parcel of land donated by the Woodward family.

"It is envisaged the development will be a joint project between government & private sector", said Bob McGill PR Director for COUCH. "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".

Chairman COUCH Charles Woodward said "We are advised the assessment process will take approximately 4-6 weeks and we will be patient for that duration but we are anxious to progress our vision".

"COUCH is fully supportive of the community push for a new hospital in Cairns" Mr. Woodward said, "we concurrently see our proposal for a cancer treatment precinct as a logical and an immediate long term answer to remedy one area of health supply which is stressed and wanting for our community. We'd be disappointed to have the cancer treatment agenda sidelined or lost amongst the debate for a new hospital. Our vision for oncology, radiotherapy, well being centre, health spa and general cancer care practitioner is a very viable and cost effective solution for the State Government. We are a solution group and keen to work with Queensland Health to positively resolve any queries they might have about our proposal. We have recommended to all elected representatives, health executives, and consultants to travel and visit our model site the Riverina Cancer Care Centre, so they can see for themselves the very professional and viable operations for themselves."

Yours in Community,  
**Bob McGill**  
**Director of Cairns COUCH Ltd.**  
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***'Committee for Oncology Unit for Cairns Hospital'***