

Media Release

Queensland research advances with opening of facilities

The Premier of Queensland, Mr Peter Beattie, officially opened two new Wesley Research Institute facilities that will provide a significant boost to Queensland medical research on Tuesday 6 March.

The Wesley Research Institute Tissue Bank and the new Clinical Trials Centre will contribute directly to state and national research priority areas of cancer research, preventative healthcare, and development of emerging healthcare technologies.

Mr Beattie praised the long-term vision of The Wesley Research Institute for clinical research in Queensland.

"I applaud The Wesley Research Institute for advancing scientific and medical discoveries that can be translated into improved patient care in relatively short periods of time," he said.

"These two new facilities, with their state-of-the-art equipment and world-class expertise, could one day win the fight against cancer and other serious diseases, making them centres of national and international significance."

Professor Julie Campbell AO, Director of The Wesley Research Institute, said the new facilities were a huge boost to research and an invaluable resource for Queensland researchers.

"Research developments from these centres will improve health care outcomes and reduce the financial burden of disease for all Queenslanders," she said.

The Queensland Government, through the Smart State Research Facilities Fund, contributed \$1.42 million towards the construction of the Tissue Bank and \$800,000 towards the construction of the Institute's new Clinical Trials Centre.

The Wesley Research Institute Tissue Bank will create an invaluable resource for research into the origins and development of cancer and other diseases.

This Tissue Bank will be the first of its kind in Queensland to provide a widely available and diversified collection of ethically consented, clinically annotated cancer tissue and use state-of-the-art digital technology to connect with researchers worldwide.

The facility will provide state and national researchers with greater understanding of breast, ovary, prostate, colon, pancreatic, liver, and kidney cancer. This will assist in the quest to unravel the cause of the disease and identify possible treatments.

"There is every possibility that information or findings made possible by The Wesley Research Institute Tissue Bank will lead to the next big breakthrough in the fight against cancer," Professor Campbell said.

The Wesley Research Institute's new Clinical Trials Centre will provide resources to facilitate the development and evaluation of new medical treatments, and the development of innovative new clinical treatments and procedures.

The Centre also has the important function of enabling clinicians to stay at the forefront of both current clinical practices and the knowledge of emerging drugs and medical treatments.

The Wesley Research Institute, situated in the grounds of The Wesley Hospital in Auchenflower, Brisbane, conducts research that focuses on improving patient care and quality of life through faster, more accurate diagnoses, fewer and less severe side effects, and new treatments for faster and improved recovery.

The Institute's researchers are doctors, nurses and health professionals who work directly with patients on clinical research projects to improve treatments across all healthcare facilities in Queensland. The Institute works collaboratively with other leading Queensland and Australian research organisations.

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