



Media Release – For immediate release
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Breaking Ground for Lions Lodge Site

The first phase of the Cancer Society's Lions Lodge project began today with a blessing and turning of the sod at the new site.

Chaplain Alan Leadley, formerly of the Waikato Hospital, led the service at 9am this morning with a prayer and waiata before Waikato/Bay of Plenty Cancer Society Executive Committee member Clive Cleland turned the first sod.

Chief executive Judy Gould says the ceremony marked the beginning of the renovation and reconstruction project, due to be completed in December 2010.

“It was important for us to recognise the new beginning for the Tainui St site before demolition of part of the building commences as it symbolises the beginning of a substantial project that, when finished, will support people all from across the region.

“It was also very fitting for Alan Leadley to head the service as he has been heavily involved in supporting people who have stayed at the current Lions Lodge and in our Living With Cancer support programme.”

A substantial fundraising campaign will be undertaken to assist the Cancer Society with the renovating and refurbishing of the facility. The new Lodge will provide increased accommodation in a modernised facility, and will also allow for greater cancer support services.

“The Lodge is a unique place which goes a long way towards supporting those in our community affected by cancer. We are hopeful communities in Waikato and Bay of Plenty will support us in our goal of helping more people as a result of this relocation.”

Ends



For further information, please contact:

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Editor's Note:

The Waikato/Bay of Plenty Division of the Cancer Society of New Zealand Inc is a non-profit organisation that receives no direct financial support from the Government. We are funded by bequests and donations from the public as well as fundraising activities.

We are committed to minimising the impact of cancer in our communities by providing:

- Quality support services for people affected by cancer
- Education to promote early detection and help reduce the risk of cancer
- Free information and resources on cancer
- Support for research into the causes, prevention, detection and treatment of cancer

