

# cancer matters

General Election  
Special  
March 2010

VOTE  
CANCER  
SUPPORT



**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

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**Macmillan Cancer Support is calling  
on Members of Parliament to vote  
now for better cancer services.**

We want as many MPs, Peers and Prospective Parliamentary  
Candidates as possible to pledge their support for  
Macmillan's Vote Cancer Support campaign. >



The Vote Cancer Support campaign is calling for the new Government to:

## **1. Support people living with and after cancer**

There are already two million people living with or after cancer in the UK and this figure will increase by 3.2% per year. Cancer patients often need help to manage their ongoing practical, medical, emotional and financial needs yet far too many feel abandoned when treatment finishes.

We feel passionately that the next Government should demonstrate a clear commitment to the cancer survivorship agenda based on the principles of post-treatment care management and appropriate support to get people living with or after cancer back to work.

Fran, 57, said: 'I was told I had cancer of the retina in 2006. Once my treatment was over, I was abandoned. There was no system to support me, no one asked me how I would cope emotionally, and when I started suffering side effects, I felt like I was making a fuss about nothing. There was no one there to answer my questions.'

Economic analysis for Macmillan has concluded that a 4-6% increase in the numbers of patients getting back to, and staying in, work after cancer each year would result in an overall net value to the UK economy of £102-£113 million per year.

**'Once my treatment was over, I was abandoned. There was no system to support me'**

## 2. Improve access to drugs for people with rarer cancers

Macmillan would also like the next Government to improve access to drug treatments for people with rarer cancers by reforming the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

The UK spends less on cancer treatments than other European countries and is slower to provide access through the NHS. Macmillan believes the current standard NICE appraisal process is biased against drug treatments for rare cancer.

Before her death in May 2009, Sandra, 67, said: 'My oncologist applied for me to take Gemcitabine but it has been turned down. If I had another type of cancer or lived in Europe, I'd get it but here the only way forward is to appeal. I'm angry because the delay means my chances of living an extra year are shortened.'

We believe the next Government has a choice to make about whether to treat people with different cancers equitably.

We want the new Government to:

**1** Support people living with and after cancer

**2** Improve access to drugs for people with rarer cancers

**3** Improve access to 24/7 community nursing for patients at the end of life



### 3. Improve access to 24/7 community nursing for patients at the end of life

Most people prefer to die at home yet less than a quarter of cancer patients (24%) are able to do so – often because of a lack of nursing support and support for carers. A census of Primary Care Trusts in November 2008 found that only half (53.2%) provided access to district nursing 24/7 at home for all terminally ill patients.

Macmillan would like the next Government to ensure people with cancer nearing the end of their life have 24/7 access to community nursing to allow them to die at home if they so wish.

Claire, 36, said: 'I felt so helpless when I was told my husband's brain cancer was terminal. Bill told me right from the start that he didn't want to go into a hospice but I had no idea how hard it would be to care for someone who is terminally ill at home. I just wish there'd been more nursing support and advice.'

There is growing evidence that the lack of nursing support at home leads to unnecessary emergency hospital admissions and prolonged stays which ends up costing the NHS far more.

**'I had no idea how hard it would be to care for someone who is terminally ill at home. I just wish there'd been more nursing support and advice.'**

#### **How can you support Macmillan's campaign?**

If you have not already signed up in support of Macmillan's *Vote Cancer Support* campaign, you can do so now by going to [macmillan.org.uk/vote](http://macmillan.org.uk/vote)

# No more pay and dismay

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## Macmillan Cancer Support calls on the Government to end confusion over hospital car parking.

Macmillan research shows that, on average, cancer patients in England are spending £325 on car parking charges over the course of their treatment, at a time when many of them are living on a reduced income.

**32% of cancer patients said they had to make savings in other areas to pay for the cost of parking.**

Despite guidance from the Government stating that hospitals in England should offer free or reduced parking to cancer patients, 60% of patients are still paying full price as they travel to their treatment, proving that current guidance isn't working.

Macmillan welcomed the Department of Health's consultation on NHS Car Parking, launched at the end of 2009, and we were pleased to have the opportunity to urge the Government to end the confusion over hospital car parking by scrapping these charges for all cancer patients in England.

Macmillan has already campaigned to ensure that the majority of cancer patients in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have access to free car parking. Now we call on the Government to bring the remaining hospitals in England in line with the rest of the UK.

Please show your support for this campaign. Visit: [macmillan.org.uk/parking](http://macmillan.org.uk/parking) to sign the pledge.



# Help us turn up the heat

People with cancer who have undergone treatment in the last year are twice as likely to be in fuel poverty as the general population.

That is why Macmillan Cancer Support has been campaigning since 2008 for more support for cancer patients who are struggling to pay their fuel bills.

Macmillan welcomes provisions in the Energy Bill that direct energy companies to introduce price support schemes to help fuel-poor customers. Cancer patients who have received medical treatment for their cancer in the last twelve months; have a terminal diagnosis; or are in receipt of housing benefit or council tax benefit, would be helped greatly by such schemes.

We urge the Minister to consider the needs of these groups of vulnerable cancer patients when he consults on the details of the schemes later in 2010.

To read a parliamentary briefing on Macmillan's Freeze Out Fuel Poverty campaign visit [macmillan.org.uk/parliament](http://macmillan.org.uk/parliament)



'Having cancer means I can't work, so I have less money. But because I'm stuck at home my fuel bills have gone through the roof. I can't afford to keep the heating on.'

Julian, 43

# A word from Ciarán Devane

Chief Executive  
of Macmillan  
Cancer Support



**It feels like an appropriate time to say a sincere thank you to all those MPs and Lords, on both sides of the House, who have worked tirelessly on behalf of cancer patients over the last Parliament.**

The last five years has seen real improvements in the care and support cancer patients receive across the UK.

At the heart of these improvements in England has been the Cancer Reform Strategy which is steadily transforming

the experience and outcomes of so many cancer patients.

Macmillan Cancer Support is particularly proud of our contribution to the strategy. Most recently, in partnership with the Department of Health, we launched the Survivorship Vision which seeks to ensure those living with and beyond cancer are appropriately supported to live as healthy and active a life as possible for as long as possible. Our manifesto call reflects our desire to see this work continued by the next Government.

Another significant change has been the exemption of cancer patients from prescription charges. We were incredibly grateful for the support

of so many MPs and Peers in promoting this successful campaign which is making a huge difference to so many lives.

I also wanted to raise one final note of thanks for the incredible fundraising efforts of MPs and Peers – especially in relation to the wonderful annual Palace of Varieties and the House of Lords vs. House of Commons Tug of War.

To those who are not returning after the General Election I wanted to wish you the very best of luck on behalf of everyone at Macmillan. It has been a privilege working with you and I hope we continue to work together in other ways – thank you.

# Click here for more information

Macmillan's online  
resource bank for  
MPs and Peers has  
now gone live



Visit [macmillan.org.uk/parliament](http://macmillan.org.uk/parliament) to read all the latest details about our campaigns and information on how you can help your constituents who are affected by cancer.

On Macmillan's new website for Parliamentarians you will find parliamentary briefings and past editions of *Cancer Matters*. The site also offers information about cancer services in your local area and Macmillan events that are happening in your constituency, including the annual World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

Should you be interested in the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer, you can access the group's site easily through [macmillan.org.uk/parliament](http://macmillan.org.uk/parliament), ensuring you have all the most up-to-date information about how to support people affected by cancer in Parliament.

## Contact us

If you have any questions about Macmillan Cancer Support's work, please get in touch.

If any of your constituents have been affected by cancer and need support, please tell them to call our helpline on **0808 808 0000** or visit [macmillan.org.uk](http://macmillan.org.uk)

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