

A Brief Guide for Hairdressers and Barbers

As a hairdresser or barber, you hold a unique position in your clients' lives. Your relationship is built on trust and often involves intimate conversations. When it comes to discussing sensitive topics like cancer, your role is crucial. You can provide several forms of support, making a significant difference in your clients' lives.

As a hairdresser or barber, your role as a listener is paramount. Sometimes, all a client needs is a compassionate ear. By offering empathy and understanding, you can establish a safe environment for clients to express their fears, hopes, and cancer-related experiences.

Resource Sharer:

While not medical professionals, hairdressers and barbers can have resources to guide clients seeking information about cancer support services, reputable websites, local support groups, or wellness programmes.

Confidence Booster:

Cancer treatment can lead to hair loss and changes in appearance, which can be emotionally challenging. Hairdressers and barbers can offer

advice on wigs, headscarves, and hairstyles to help clients feel more confident and comfortable with their appearance during and after treatment.

As a hairdresser or barber, you are entrusted with deeply personal conversations about cancer. It's crucial that you ensure these discussions are confidential, respecting the privacy and sensitivity of your client's situation. This responsibility underscores the trust your clients place in you.

Encouraging Advocate:

Encouragement and positive reinforcement can be powerful. Hairdressers and barbers can remind clients of their strength and resilience and celebrate milestones in their treatment or recovery journey.

As a hairdresser or barber, you are more than just a stylist. You can be a powerful advocate for your clients. If a client raises concerns or questions that are beyond your expertise, you can play a crucial role in encouraging them to seek advice from healthcare professionals. This could involve gently suggesting that they make an appointment with a doctor or cancer specialist. Your advocacy can significantly impact your client's health and wellbeing.

Awareness Promoter:

Hairdressers and barbers can use their platform to promote cancer awareness among their clientele by organising events.

When supporting clients with cancer, it's crucial for hairdressers and barbers to maintain professional boundaries and understand their scope of practice. This means refraining from providing medical advice and instead focusing on offering support and empathy, and guiding clients to professional resources when needed. By doing so, you can ensure your clients receive the best care while feeling secure in your role.

The Beauty of Support | Macmillan Cancer Support

