

HEAD & NECK CANCER

Gala

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2025

JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF FINE FOOD,
FLOWING DRINKS + LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

MUSIC • AWARDS • DANCING • AUCTIONS • RAFFLE



SPONSORSHIP PROSPECTUS 2025

NICOLAS HARDING: 'WHEN I COULD, I DREW'

We are honoured to feature a remarkable artwork by the late **Nicholas Harding** for the theme of the Head and Neck Cancer Gala Fundraiser, *Treatment, Day 49 (sorbolene soak)*.

Nicholas Harding (1956–2022) was one of Australia's most celebrated artists, known for his bold, expressive paintings and masterful draughtsmanship. Over a career spanning more than three decades, he captivated audiences with his richly textured landscapes, intimate portraits, and striking still lifes. A winner of the Archibald Prize and the Wynne Prize, Harding's work is held in major public and private collections across Australia and internationally.

In October 2017, Nicholas Harding was diagnosed with Head and Neck Cancer. One of the first things the doctors had told him was that he would never be the same again. Harding recalls that as unsettling advice. "You try to process it," he says, "but you can't, because what does that mean?"

He was eager to face his predicament head-on. Equally, he wanted doctors to be as direct as possible, to tell him "how it's going to be". Art, then, was an important way for him to stay sane and to stay connected to "my old self". Throughout seven weeks of treatment he kept a visual journal, capturing moments from his experience.



"This keeps you in touch with how you were, and the part of you that you hope to remain."

Towards the end of his treatment, the frequency of Harding's drawings dropped away. He had been warned about this period. His energy levels waned, water started to taste like metal and he generally felt lethargic, like he was jet-lagged. He was no longer doing a drawing every day, but he still came close.

Radiation burned his skin, leaving it blistered and raw. To ease the pain, nurses applied sorbolene with ice-cold bandages. On his final day of treatment, day 49, Harding took a selfie during one of these soaks. He later sketched the image and developed it into the self-portrait, *Treatment, Day 49 (sorbolene soak)*.

Thank you to Nicholas's son, **Samuel Harding** for generously allowing us to use this artwork in support of the Head and Neck Cancer Gala.

ABOUT YOUR HOSTS



AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND
**HEAD & NECK
CANCER SOCIETY**

The Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society was established in 1998 to promote quality care for all Head and Neck Cancer patients.

The ANZHNCS Research Foundation provides the facilities and support that researchers need to better understand Head and Neck Cancers, with the ultimate aim of preventing and curing these diseases.



HEAD & NECK CANCER
AUSTRALIA
ENGAGE • EDUCATE • EMPOWER

Head and Neck Cancer Australia was established in 2016 and is the only national charity dedicated to raising awareness of Head and Neck Cancer and improving the outcomes of people affected through free education, information, support and advocacy.

In March 2025 HANCA launched Australia's first Head and Neck Cancer Helpline providing free specialist nursing and counselling support to people impacted by Head and Neck Cancer across Australia.



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ABOUT THE CAUSE

Head and Neck Cancer is brutal. For many of the 5,300 people newly diagnosed each year it is a devastating disease, unlike any other.

While survival rates are 71%, treatment for Head and Neck Cancer is widely acknowledged to be among the toughest on patients often taking away basic abilities that many of us take for granted, like speaking, eating, breathing, swallowing, and can leave some people unable to smile or laugh. For others, it results in profound facial disfigurement with the removal of part of a person's face that is impossible to conceal.

Sadly, each year, more than 1,100 Australians lose their lives to Head and Neck Cancer.

5,300
Australians are diagnosed every year¹



17,374
Australians living with the lasting impacts of Head and Neck Cancer²



1,100+
Australians lose their lives to Head and Neck Cancer



The **Head and Neck Cancer Gala Fundraiser** is an exciting opportunity to *honour dedication and inspire generosity* to support people affected by Head and Neck Cancer across Australia.

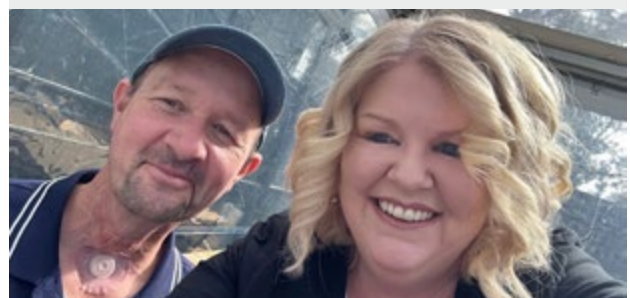
All funds raised at the Head and Neck Cancer Gala will go directly towards critical research and personalised support.

CRITICAL RESEARCH



Your support will go towards funding critical clinical, translational and laboratory research, including research into the aggressive oral cancer that took the life of 26 year old Lauren Barrett. Oral cancer has seen a 385% increase in young women in the last 30 years despite reductions in smoking with the cause unknown.

PERSONALISED SUPPORT



// *If I could change one thing about my time as Drew's carer, it would definitely be support. It's a lonely position and no-one in real life truly understands what is going on or how bad things are.*

Your support will go towards expanding the reach of Australia's first Head and Neck Cancer Helpline helping people like Lizzy and Drew.

HEAD AND NECK CANCER IN AUSTRALIA: A SNAPSHOT

30% gap in survival rates for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples compared to non-Indigenous Australians⁴



17,374

Living with the lasting impacts of Head and Neck Cancer²



Economic **cost is twice** that of breast cancer⁷



There is NO screening: **early detection** is key

385% increase in tongue cancer in young women in last 30 years despite reduction in smoking. Cause is unknown⁶



63.5%

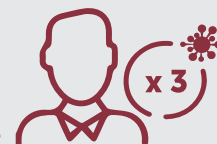
of tonsil and base of tongue cancers are caused by Human Papillomavirus (HPV) - the same virus that causes cervical cancer⁵



4 out of 5

people will have HPV at some point in their lives⁸

Men are **three times** more likely to be diagnosed¹



Sources:

1. Head and Neck Cancers: Cancer Council Australia, Excluding Thyroid and Skin Cancers
2. Head and Neck Cancer: Cancer Australia
3. Cancer Australia's National Cancer Control Indicators August 2018
4. AIHW Cancer in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of Australia
5. Hong reported that the proportion of oropharyngeal cancers which were positive for HPV DNA and p16 increased from 20.2% in 1987-1995 to 63.5% in 2006-2010 [27]. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6015268>
6. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32622292/
7. Cost of Cancer in NSW, [Access Economics/Cancer Council NSW 2007](https://www.cancer.org.au/research-and-innovation/cancer-cost-in-nsw)
8. Human Papillomavirus: Cancer Council Australia

EVENT INFORMATION

Join 300 guests for an unforgettable evening of fine food, premium beverages and live entertainment at the Head and Neck Cancer Gala Fundraiser co-hosted by the Australia and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society and Head and Neck Cancer Australia.

Highlights of the evening will include:

- 3 Course Dinner
- 5 Hour Premium Beverage Package
- Master of Ceremonies
- Live entertainment
- Live & Silent Auctions
- Raffle, and much more!

Date: Saturday, 1 November 2025

Time: 6.30pm – 11.30pm

Venue: Strangers' Dining Room, NSW Parliament House, Sydney

Dress code: Formal

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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Gold Sponsor

\$15,000 excl GST

- Prominent logo placement and gold sponsor acknowledgment on all event assets including event website, event booklet (full page), eDMs and social media (minimum 3), post event communications.
- Verbal acknowledgment from event MC of sponsorship level and photograph.
- Opportunity to present an inaugural award on stage.
- Acknowledgment on the stage and event entrance (banners to be provided by sponsor).
- Photograph with award winner.
- Opportunity to provide door prize (at sponsor's expense).
- Company logo on sponsored table.
- VIP table for 10 guests in premium location.

Silver Sponsor | 3 available \$7,500 excl GST

- Prominent company logo placement and silver sponsor acknowledgment on all event assets including event website, event booklet (half page), EDMs and social media (minimum 3), post event communications.
- Opportunity to provide door prize (at sponsor's expense).
- 4 complimentary gala tickets in premium location.

Bronze Sponsor | 5 available \$5,000 excl GST

- Prominent company logo placement and bronze sponsor acknowledgment on all event assets including event website, event booklet (quarter page), EDMs and social media (minimum 3), post event communications.
- 2 complimentary gala tickets in in premium location.

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS



**Sustained
engagement**



**Brand
visibility**



**Networking
opportunities**



**Corporate social
responsibility**

FIND OUT MORE

To find out more or to discuss other opportunities for getting involved please contact:

Nadia Rosin HANCA CEO 0422 375 765

Tiel Lillehagen Gala Fundraising Committee Chair 0411 563 766

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headandneckcancergala.org.au



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