

more than a witness...

# brain tumours

Each year more than 1,300 people in Australia are diagnosed with a primary or secondary brain tumour.<sup>^</sup>

Brain cancer is the result of abnormal cells which grow uncontrollably, invading and destroying the normal brain.

Compared with many other types of cancer the cure rate for brain cancer is considerably lower.

There are over 120 different types of brain tumours making effective treatment extremely complicated and in most cases there is no known cause.\*

Research is significantly under-funded and public awareness of the magnitude of this disease is very low.

<sup>^</sup> National Cancer Control Initiative, Cancer Council Victoria

\* National Brain Tumor Foundation, United States

# some facts

Brain tumours are the leading cause of solid tumour cancer death in people under the age of 20.\*\*+

However, as brain cancer is only the 14th most common type of cancer it often receives less attention and funding than more common cancers such as those of the breast, lung, prostate and colon.

Brain cancer is almost always as fatal within a few years and causes a much greater proportion of cancer deaths.

In fact, cancer of the brain and nervous system is the 4th highest cancer cause of life-years lost,\*\* with brain tumour malignancies the second leading cause of cancer death in male adults 20 – 39 and the fifth leading cause in cancer death in female adults ages 20 – 39.\*\*+

\*\* Brain Tumor Society, United States  
+ American Cancer Society 2002  
++ Australian Institute of Health & Welfare



Professor Andrew H Kaye

Director of Department of Neurosurgery & Director, Melbourne Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Royal Melbourne Hospital

## Through my eyes...

A significant proportion of my patients with brain tumours are young. Brain tumour sufferers desperately require support. They have such a complex cancer that eats away at the very basis of their life. Surgery and medical treatment for patients of brain cancer is well developed - what these patients need is greater support in their lives and an infrastructure of support in the wider community for them and their families.

# our mission

Our aim is create a real difference in the quality of life of young brain cancer sufferers and work towards one day finding a cure for this insidious disease. Our goal is the pursuit of advancements into the treatment, research and prevention of brain cancer.

Our purpose:

- Acting as an advocate in the community to raise awareness of brain cancer and its prevalence. Supporting the pursuit to uncover new answers and tools for the prevention, treatment, diagnosis and cure of brain cancer.
- Enhancing the quality of life of brain cancer sufferers and their families and carers by providing support, information and resources in respect of the control of brain cancer.
- Providing funding for medical research and to uncover new answers and tools to aid in the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and ultimately a cure of brain cancer.
- Ultimately developing a respite facility (beach house) to enable brain cancer patients and their families the opportunity to recuperate during treatment of their illness in a beautiful setting.



Brooke Lederman  
The Nurse

## Through my eyes...

I come to work each day and face the destruction and devastation brain cancer has on patients, families and loved ones. Brain cancer is seen more and more in the young, and support for them is limited. The Fitzgerald Foundation will be able to offer this essential support network. Long term plans to develop a retreat will also provide patients with time in an environment where they can be 'free' for a while.

# background

The Fitzgerald Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation established in memory of Ben Fitzgerald, his strength and courage, to support young brain tumour sufferers.

The Foundation acknowledges the significant incidence of brain cancer, the considerable lack of general funding in this area and a need to create a greater support network for young sufferers.

Its aim is to make a real difference in the quality of life of young brain cancer sufferers and work towards one day finding a cure for this insidious disease.



Mark Skaife, Holden Racing Team  
Patron

## Through my eyes...

Like many, I was unaware of the significant incidence and destructive nature of this disease among young Australians. The need for this foundation to support young brain cancer sufferers and their families is evident. I am honoured to be part of such a progressive, relevant and important foundation.

# your help

Your support will make a difference. By becoming more than a witness, you will be supporting valuable research into brain cancer and helping to enhance the quality of life of young brain cancer sufferers and their families.

All donations are gratefully accepted and can be sent using the form provided via mail to:

Fitzgerald Foundation  
PO Box 1191  
South Melbourne VIC 3205  
Australia

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Cheques should be made out to Fitzgerald Foundation.



The family...the friends...the colleagues

## Through my eyes...

You are never prepared for the overwhelming feeling of helplessness, watching the person you love more than anything in the world go through so much emotional and physical pain.

All we ever wanted was to grow old together. Instead I had to watch my young, fit husband succumb to a world of limitations and pain, fighting the battle of his life and having to stop all things he loved because the tumour had the double impact of affecting his physical abilities.

# the fitzgerald foundation

## **Cheques or Money Order**

Please ensure that your full name and mailing address is included.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Credit Card**

Card type: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for Fitzgerald Foundation.

I wish to be kept informed of upcoming events. **Y / N**



The Fitzgerald Foundation  
PO Box 1191 South Melbourne VIC 3205 Australia  
F 03 9428 3967  
[www.fitzgeraldfoundation.org.au](http://www.fitzgeraldfoundation.org.au)



Ben  
1974 -2005

## Through my eyes...

It happened so quickly. You go to the doctors for a quick check up before the race meeting and 3 days later you wake up in a high dependency unit after having brain surgery. That's when you realise life will never be the same. You live for every moment with the hope of proving the statistics wrong.