

The Oncology Outpatient Service at the Royal Hobart Hospital are very proud to be recognised for their innovative work in caring for oncology patients by being awarded the Margaret Allwright Award for Achievement in Nursing Practice in 2017. Since receiving the award the oncology service has presented findings from the Nurse Led Oncology Triage Service to several meetings. This included the oncology workforce at the Royal Hobart Hospital in June 2018 and following on in September an oral presentation at the International Council of Cancer Nurses Conference in New Zealand. The international presentation raised much conversation between fellow cancer nursing colleagues particularly around models of care associated with symptom management in cancer care.

In 2019 the oncology nurse triage system remains in place, on average the oncology nurse receives ten calls from patients on a daily basis, with the service being offered on a Monday-Friday basis. 2019 has seen more challenges than 2018, mainly due to changes in the workforce with nursing staff within the service reducing hours or promoted to senior nursing positions. This has had a direct effect on available skilled oncology nurses to manage patient calls, particularly when unplanned leave occurs. The oncology nursing service are exploring options to develop and train a workforce which supports the long term sustainability of the oncology nurse triage model.

The \$1000 prize money was shared between the two outpatient oncology units at the Royal Hobart Hospital, the prize has contributed towards nursing staff development.

Report provided by Dr Louise Nicholson