



# The 15th UICC Reach to Recovery

International Breast Cancer Support Conference  
May 13-15, 2009 Brisbane, Australia

## About the Conference





## Reach down under for the latest in breast cancer supportive care!

It is my pleasure to formally invite you to the 15<sup>th</sup> UICC Reach to Recovery International Breast Cancer Support Conference in Brisbane, Australia in May 2009. The theme of this conference is One Journey, Many People, and we want you to make the journey to be with many others from all parts of the world, who have experienced breast cancer.

The conference, hosted by the Cancer Council Queensland, will be the first worldwide forum for breast cancer consumers, support organisations and health professionals to meet and address common goals.

Breast cancer is a global issue and over the years it has been consumers, women themselves, who have led the movement to ensure the provision of adequate and appropriate services and supportive care for those diagnosed and treated for this disease. The Reach to Recovery International movement has, through peer support and advocacy, played a unique and important role in acknowledging and celebrating the power of shared personal experience.

This conference promises to be not only empowering and informative, but exciting, inspirational and fun. So please join us in Brisbane, Australia in May 2009 - to learn from each other, to share experiences, and to strengthen and build networks.

Professor Jeff Dunn  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Cancer Council Queensland**  
**Brisbane, Australia**



## The 15th UICC Reach to Recovery International Breast Cancer Support Conference



The 15th UICC Reach to Recovery International Breast Cancer Support Conference will be the first ever world wide forum across Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa, North, Central, and South America for breast cancer consumers, support organizations and health professionals to meet and address common goals.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. In 2002 there were more than one million new cases of breast cancer diagnosed globally – this represents 10 per cent of the world's cancer burden and 23 per cent of all female cancers. There are now more than four million women living with breast cancer worldwide. One in eight Australian women will be diagnosed before the age of 85, and around 12,000 Australian women are diagnosed each year.

The 15th UICC Reach to Recovery International Breast Cancer Support Conference will be convened in Brisbane by Cancer Council Queensland and is supported by our international partners, the UICC and Reach to Recovery International; and in Australia by the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Cancer Council Australia, Department of Health and Ageing, beyondblue, Breast Cancer Network Australia, Queensland Health, and the National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre.

The Conference will offer a world class program with leading experts from around the world and Australia presenting best practice in their fields. The 2009 Conference will be the premier opportunity for breast cancer consumers, care givers, and professionals from the Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa, North, Central, and South America to network, share experience and expertise, and develop knowledge and skills. Particular emphasis will be given to capacity building workshops and sessions sharing experiences and knowledge across different cultural settings, and in low resource countries and communities.

### About the Conference

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In May 2009 more than 600 delegates will gather in sub-tropical Brisbane to:

- develop knowledge and share skills in consumer driven supportive care for women with breast cancer and their families;
- discuss and share effective models for peer support and consumer advocacy;
- improve intra and cross regional consumer networks, collaboration and partnerships; and
- build international efforts to reduce the impact of breast cancer on women, their families and the community.

The 2009 Conference will feature speakers from around the world, with special sessions focusing on issues faced by young women, women with advanced breast cancer, cross-cultural communication, advocacy, solutions for low resource countries and communities, and benefit finding.

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### Who will be attending?

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The conference will provide useful, practical information for:

- Women diagnosed with breast cancer, their families and friends;
- Breast care nurses;
- Care givers;
- Breast Cancer support group leaders and volunteers;
- Social workers, psycho-social oncology specialists and psychologists;
- Oncology nurses and nurse practitioners;
- Breast cancer patient support organizations and advocates;
- Medical and radiation oncologist's;
- Breast surgeons and reconstruction specialists;
- Reproductive endocrinologists and fertility specialists;
- Genetic counsellors and geneticists;
- Physical therapists and rehabilitation specialists;
- Gynaecologists and women's health practitioners;
- Breast cancer scientists and researchers.



## The Program

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Sessions offering skill and knowledge development will be offered, with a package of take-home practical information and tools in peer support, capacity building, fundraising and advocacy for both low and high resource communities. The program will also feature four one day tracks in capacity building, consumer/clinician dialogue on clinical trials, young women's issues and resources and fundraising.

A conference highlight will be a two hour adventure benefit finding experiential workshop. Building on the international momentum of organizations such as Amazon Heart and Dragon Boating, participants will be given the opportunity to experience adventure programs for breast cancer consumers including abseiling, rock climbing, kayaking, cycling, roller blading, dragon boating, walking and exercise programs. Alongside the adventures, workshops on key elements and case studies in benefit finding and exercise.

The conference will also feature experiential programs in complementary therapies, and a showcase for creative responses to the breast cancer experience including film, drama, art and photography.

## Key Speakers

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The Conference Committee is working to produce a world class program with speakers from around the world addressing our three key areas – Survivorship, Capacity Building and Peer Support.

Below are confirmed faculty members for the conference.

- Dr. Annette Stanton, PhD, UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Mary Onyango, Executive Director, Kenya Breast Health Programme
- Stella Kyriakides, President Europa Donna Cyprus, MP House of Representatives, Cyprus
- Dr Jane Turner, Senior Lecturer, Department of the Psychiatry, University of Queensland
- Jill Margo (AM), Journalist, Australian Financial Review
- Professor Jeff Dunn, CEO Cancer Council Queensland, UICC Strategic Leader – Capacity Building

## Conference testimonial – Leonie Young

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*"I was able to attend the last two Reach to Recovery conferences in Mumbai and Stockholm – two totally different settings but bearing the same message. They showed that regardless of our backgrounds or nationalities, the value of being able to meet women who have also experienced breast cancer can't be measured. It didn't really matter whether women came from a remote village in Africa or South America or from European or Asian cities because our shared experiences linked us.*

*In Stockholm, I reconnected with women I met in Mumbai – it was like meeting old friends and I look forward to seeing them and the new friends I made whilst in Stockholm at the Brisbane conference in 2009. It's such a privilege to know these women and it's just so good for the soul. Knowing we are not alone is what makes the journey bearable.*

*The program is extensive and offers opportunities for survivors and health professionals to connect and identify important issues and outcomes to ensure equity of access to support and information for women and their families worldwide.*

*The 2009 conference in Brisbane Australia offers women internationally the opportunity to live these same experiences. Until now, unless we traveled out of the country, Australian women haven't been able to experience the rewards of an international survivor conference and we are all very excited at the prospect of meeting women from all over the world."*



**Leonie Young**, Breast Cancer Survivor, Organising Committee Co-Chair

## For more information

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For more information about the Conference, visit [www.reachtotherecovery2009.org](http://www.reachtotherecovery2009.org) or email [info@reachtotherecovery2009.org](mailto:info@reachtotherecovery2009.org).