

## MEDIA RELEASE

30 October, 2009

### **Airport Link workers show real men can wear pink!**

While normally seen sporting their bright orange protective clothing, workers on Airport Link – the State’s largest infrastructure project – this month donned pink hard hats and pink shirts to show their support for National Breast Cancer Month.

Even the project’s construction sites turned pink, with ten cranes flying giant pink flags at the project’s construction sites including the Airport Roundabout, Truro Street tunnelling site and several Kedron work sites, one of which houses the project’s head office.

Airport Link Project Director Gordon Ralph said the Airport Link team has now exceeded their fundraising goal of \$10,000 and are proud to support Breast Cancer Month during October, with funds donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

“We held a wide range of staff fundraising activities including merchandise sales, lamington drives and site sausage sizzles, as well as displaying our support with pink shirts, hard hats and flags on the construction equipment on site,” said Mr Ralph.

“Some of our major contractors also came on board – Global Cranes, Universal Cranes and CAFA Engineering all purchased pink flags for their cranes on site, and more than 100 haul trucks from companies Timms Haulage and Sunstate Haulage are displaying small pink flags on their vehicles.

“It’s a great way for us to raise awareness and show our support, particularly as some of the construction sites are in highly visible areas,” said Mr Ralph.

While the majority of workers on the Airport Link project – indeed most infrastructure projects – are male, the importance of this cause remains close to the heart of many employees, including Quentin Ward, whose wife was diagnosed with invasive breast cancer three years ago.

Mr Ward, Commercial Manager for Toombul, recalls the moment when his partner Karen detected a lump in her left breast just one month before giving birth to their baby boy, Bailey.

Together they made the decision not to commence treatment until the baby was born, but following the caesarean birth, Karen was faced with surgery to have the cancer removed two days later.

“Karen underwent four separate operations to remove the cancerous tissue and just as we were preparing for the last resort of having her breast removed, her final operation was successful,” said Mr Ward.

“At the time I was working with Thiess on the Boggo Road Busway project and I was lucky that both my workplace and Karen’s were extremely supportive and flexible with leave time for the countless medical procedures and hospital visits she had.



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“After undergoing surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, Karen is now on the road to recovery and her main battle is managing a low immune system which means she’s much more susceptible to illness,” said Mr Ward.

While one in nine women will be diagnosed with breast cancer by the age of 85, better detection and improved treatment has seen a 22% drop in deaths from the disease over the past decade.

Early detection continues to be the best method for reducing deaths and the Airport Link Project has proactively promoted breast cancer facts and tips throughout the workplace to help raise awareness among employees throughout October.

ENDS

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