

Media Release

Lo Gets More Than She Gives From Volunteering

5 May 2014

Making a cuppa is no chore for Lo who for the last 11 years has served tea to patients in the Outpatients Oncology Clinic at King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH).

Lo Egerton-Warburton, of Claremont, is a long-standing volunteer for the Women and Infants Research Foundation (WIRF) and was drawn to volunteering at KEMH after having one of her children at the hospital.

"It is a pleasure and a privilege to volunteer in the Oncology Clinic and to meet people who show such resilience in what must be very frightening circumstances", said Lo.

"The patients are often very keen to chat about their illness, their hopes and fears. I have learned of the emotional toll placed on the patients and their families, but also the strength these patients display when faced with life threatening illnesses. It's nice to provide a friendly face and a listening ear", said Lo.

WIRF coordinates over 100 volunteers to support the hospital, patients and staff, and to assist in raising funds for women's and infant's research. Volunteers work in the hospital's café / gift shop, op shop and provide support to patient care programs by coordinating new baby packs and memory boxes for families in need.

In addition to this, the Foundation assists over 300 community knitters and sewers to make specialised garments for use in the hospital's special care nursery, and comfort blankets for oncology patients.

Lo said, "despite all that the oncology patients are going through, it is heartening to hear their constant praise of the staff and facilities at the hospital, and of the volunteers who take time out of their day to care, when indeed it is very much our pleasure".

"I have made many friends through my volunteer role - patients, staff and other volunteers in the hospital", said Lo. "WIRF makes sure our work does not go unnoticed and rewards the volunteers with memorable Christmas parties and afternoon teas. I just hope there will be many more volunteering years ahead for me".

Lo believes it is her that benefits most from the volunteer work she does. Next week is National Volunteer Week (12 - 18 May 2014).

Would you like to volunteer like Lo?

We are looking for a person just like Lo to volunteer in the Oncology Clinic every second Tuesday morning. If you are interested, please email info@wirf.com.au

To find out more about volunteering with WIRF, visit: <http://wirf.com.au/volunteer>

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women & infants
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Lo-Egerton Warburton volunteering in the Outpatients Oncology Clinic at KEMH.