

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP

2016 Cancer Council Relay for Life South Metro

Event Opening

Success Regional Sporting Facility

at 10.00am on Saturday, 8 October 2016

Good morning ladies and gentleman, girls and boys.

Welcome to the inaugural 2016 Cancer Council Relay for Life South Metro event.

I acknowledge the Nyungar People who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered today and I pay respect to their Elders both past and present and extend that respect to Indigenous Australians who are with us today.

I acknowledge:

- Sarah Smith, Chairperson, Relay for Life South Metro;
- Anne Northall, Ceremonies Co-coordinator, Relay For Life South Metro;
- Committee Members, Relay for Life South Metro (wearing their bright yellow “Committee” shirts);
- Survivors and their carers here today; and
- Participants here today and their support teams.

Relay for Life South Metro has come about through the amalgamation of:

- Relay For Life Rockingham/ Kwinana;
- Relay For Life Serpentine/Jarrahdale; and
- Relay For Life Fremantle.

Each of these former organisations and events brought together a strong volunteer base all with the same heartfelt message ie:

- in the hope that those lost to cancer will not be forgotten;

- those facing cancer will be supported; and
- that one day cancer will be eliminated.

Relay For Life is a chance for communities to recognise and celebrate those who have overcome cancer or are undergoing treatment, as well as the people who care for them.

Relay For Life also provides an opportunity to celebrate the memory of loved ones lost to cancer.

The leadership, focus, passion, commitment and understanding that volunteers across our community bring to the fore to ensure that in one way or another we all benefit from their willingness to go that one extra mile is reflected here today.

As we know, funds raised support vital cancer research, education and prevention programs and services for those in our community touched by cancer. In fact, there would be very few people, if any, who have not been impacted by cancer, whether it is personal, through family, friends or work colleagues.

Please join with me in thanking Sarah and the Committee for their heartfelt commitment to the cause and for the enormous effort they have put in to bring this event to fruition.

Thousands of Australians participate in over 200 Relays across Australia each year.

Some people Relay in memory of a loved one lost to cancer;

Some do it to show how proud they are at having survived cancer;

Some do it to show they are strong enough to beat cancer; and

Some simply want to be involved and make a difference.

To those of you participating, I trust that you will have fun over the next two days– it has been exciting just to wander around this morning and soak up the great atmosphere – plenty of colour, team themes, tents, campsites, costumes and a whole lot of frivolity.

Well done and congratulations to each and every one of you.

I now have great pride in officially declaring open the 2016 Cancer Council Relay for Life South Metro event and wish you well in your fund raising endeavours over the next two days and throughout the year in support of the Cancer Council.

As is the tradition, I will now ask that you join us at the start line for the ribbon cutting which marks the start of the Survivors Walk, indeed the Survivor's Lap of Honour.

Thank you.