



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **The Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation welcomes a \$4 million funding package for its National Pancreatic Cancer Patient Support Hub, announced by the Federal Opposition as part of its Medicare Cancer Plan**

In his 2019 Budget Reply Speech on April 4, the Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten announced his Medicare Cancer Plan, to come into effect should the Australian Labor Party form government following the 2019 federal election victory.

As part of this plan, The Federal Opposition has pledged \$4 million over 4 years to fund the National Patient Support Hub being launched by Australia's leading Pancreatic Cancer organisation, the Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation.

Pancreatic Cancer is more common and more virulent cancer than most understand. This year, Pancreatic Cancer will kill virtually as many Australians as Breast Cancer. The likelihood of being alive 5 years after being diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer is less than 10% - this compares to a five year survival rate of 95% for Prostate Cancer patients. In fact, 4 out of 5 patients diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer are unable to be operated on, and will die within 12 months of the day they receive their diagnosis.

To offer support to these unfortunate Australians and their carers, the Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation will soon launch a National Patient Support Hub. "We call Pancreatic Cancer 'The Cancer of our Generation'. We are firm in our belief every Pancreatic Cancer patient should have instant access to advice, support and direction, especially as almost all of them have only months to live" said Caroline Kelly, Founder and Director of the Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation.

"In one, easy-to-access national environment, The Pancreatic Cancer Patient Hub will guide patients to practitioners, facilities and support services, provide a network for the community to build support and share experiences. It will give Pancreatic Cancer patients, currently suffering alone and in silence, a voice to drive change and better research outcomes. It will also unlock access to valuable patient data to help the medical community understand patients better and develop new ways to improve treatment".

"We welcome the \$4million funding package pledged by Mr. Shorten. This support would ensure the success of our Pancreatic Cancer Patient Hub, helping patients, their carers and families deal with the exceptional burden this vicious cancer puts on its victims. Alongside the many other initiatives announced in the Opposition's Medicare Cancer Plan, this funding would help radically reduce the isolation and helplessness endured by Australia's Pancreatic Cancer sufferers. With patients facing such short periods of survival this rapid support would make a huge difference. It would be an important step in giving the victims of this forgotten cancer the care and attentions they deserve".