

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

14 May 2015

Storm and Rabbitohs unite in ovarian cancer fight

Crown Resorts Foundation will kick off the NRL's Women in League Round by taking a stand against ovarian cancer, a disease that claims the lives of 1,000 women in Australia each year.

The 'Crown Resorts Foundation Charity Challenge' will see Crown-sponsored NRL clubs Melbourne Storm and the South Sydney Rabbitohs take to the field on Saturday 16 May at AAMI Park and raise much needed funds for Ovarian Cancer Australia.

In addition to presenting Ovarian Cancer Australia with a cheque for \$20,000, Crown Resorts Foundation has also pledged to donate a further \$1,000 for every try scored by both the Storm and Rabbitohs.

Ovarian cancer has the lowest survival rate of any women's cancer. Each day in Australia, four women are diagnosed with the disease and three will die.

Melbourne Storm captain and Ovarian Cancer Australia Ambassador Cameron Smith stressed the importance of knowing and recognising the signs and symptoms of the disease.

"The five year survival rate for ovarian cancer is 43 per cent compared with 89 per cent for breast cancer. If it's caught early, the majority of women can survive, but unfortunately Australians aren't arming themselves by knowing the signs and it is being diagnosed in advanced stages," said Mr Smith.

"I urge the NRL community to look out for themselves and the women in their lives by taking some time to learn the symptoms.

"Ovarian cancer isn't a women's-only disease, it affects men too through the women we love," he added

Ovarian Cancer Australia's Chair Paula Benson said funds raised will assist the organisation in achieving their 25/25 Vision, announced at Parliament House Canberra in February.

"Our 25/25 Vision aims to achieve a 25 per cent improvement to the five year survival rate of ovarian cancer by the year 2025," said Ms Benson.

"It is through the generosity of organisations like the Crown Resorts Foundation that I know we can reach this ambitious target.

"We thank Crown Resorts Foundation for taking action and helping us make a real difference to women and their families living the ovarian cancer now and in the future," she said.

Crown Resorts Foundation Advisory Chair Gretel Packer said that ovarian cancer is a disease that deserves much-needed attention.

“Ovarian cancer is a terrible disease that affects too many women, all too frequently. We see this game as a wonderful opportunity to work with our NRL partners to benefit the community and support a worthwhile cause by bringing it into the public eye,” said Ms Packer.

In addition to also hosting fundraising events to support the ‘Crown Resorts Foundation Charity Challenge’, Storm and Rabbitohs players have generously offered to donate their signed match-day jerseys as auction items to raise further funds for Ovarian Cancer Australia.

-ENDS-

For media enquiries please contact:

Yumeko Leung, Tel: 0402 127 903 or (03) 8628 9319 yumeko@royce.com.au

Nicolette Baxter, Tel: 0438 143 342 or (03) 8628 9320 nicollette@royce.com.au

For more information visit www.ovariancancer.net.au

For more information on the 25/25 Vision, visit www.ovariancancer.net.au/2525vision

Twitter & Instagram: @ovariancancerOz

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OvarianCancerAustralia>

About Ovarian Cancer Australia:

Ovarian Cancer Australia is the national body for ovarian cancer and was founded in 2001 by a group of people who had been affected by ovarian cancer, either themselves or through someone they loved. Ovarian Cancer Australia provides support for women and their families, raises community awareness of ovarian cancer, advocates for improved services for women and funds and promotes and funds research. Ovarian Cancer Australia’s vision is to save lives and ensure that no woman with ovarian cancer walks alone. Their work is guided by their core values of Optimism, Community and Accountability. Ovarian Cancer Australia has developed an ambitious strategic plan for 2013 to 2016 to develop and grow its support, awareness, advocacy and research programs. In order to achieve their ambitious plan, organisational growth and funding is critical.