

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

25 May 2016

\$8 million investment to Australian ovarian cancer research committed by ALP

Leader of the Opposition the Hon Mr Bill Shorten MP will today announce an unprecedented election commitment to saving Australian women's lives by pledging \$8 million to Ovarian Cancer Australia for research.

Ovarian Cancer Australia's CEO Jane Hill described this contribution as a 'game changer'.

"\$8 million would be one of the largest and most significant single investments to ovarian cancer research in Australia's history," said Ms Hill.

"Ovarian cancer has the lowest survival rate of any women's cancer. Treatment options have advanced little since the 1970s. There is an urgent need for change, and we must act now to reduce the burden of this devastating disease.

"This investment will change the story for ovarian cancer. It will save lives. It will give women living with the disease, and their families, hope.

"We applaud Mr Shorten's commitment and thank him for recognising the investment in research that is needed to improve the dismal survival rate of this devastating disease," she continued.

Mr Shorten and Shadow Minister for Health Catherine King are set to make the announcement this morning at Ovarian Cancer Australia's Office at the Queen Victoria Women's Centre in Melbourne, in the presence of women living with ovarian cancer, as well as family and friends who had lost loved ones to the disease.

In November 2014, Ovarian Cancer Australia – the leading national organisation for ovarian cancer – launched Australia's first National Action Plan for Ovarian Cancer Research. The plan sets out the urgent priorities for ovarian cancer research in Australia to significantly reduce the number of women dying from the disease.

"This investment into ovarian cancer research will give us the best possible chance to achieve our 25/25 goal to reduce the incidence of ovarian cancer by 25 per cent and to improve the five year survival rate by 25 per cent by the year 2025," said Ms Hill.

"Each year almost 1500 Australian women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer and 1000 will die from the disease. We must do better than this and the time for action is now," she said.

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For more information or interviews with Ms Hill or Australians living with ovarian cancer, please contact:

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About Ovarian Cancer Australia:

Ovarian Cancer Australia is the independent national organisation that takes action for people affected by 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 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. In February 2015, Ovarian Cancer Australia announced their bold 25/25 Vision, a plan to achieve a 25 per cent improvement in the five year survival rate of ovarian cancer by 2025. Know Ovarian Cancer is an initiative to achieve the 25/25 Vision, consisting of a national awareness campaign, education and support programs, high impact research, and advocacy. For more information on the 25/25 Vision, please visit www.ovariancancer.net.au/2525vision