# A hospital close to home provides quality of life

St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee is holding a charity ball at the Italian Sports Club of Werribee on Saturday, July 30. The Charity Winter Ball will raise funds for a new day oncology unit at the hospital, which will allow for more patients and an expansion of services.

"We're carrying out more than 1000 treatments in our day oncology unit per year and we've outgrown the current unit and its location," St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee general manager Emma Saliba says.

"The Winter Ball is an important event in the hospital's calendar. This year, all funds raised will go towards the new day oncology unit so we can expand the level of care we provide and offer a broader range of services."

Werribee's Richard Hayes is among those who has benefited from St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee's day oncology unit.

After years of working in construction, steam train enthusiast Richard, along with his wife Charmaine, were finally enjoying their retirement.

That was until four years ago when Richard began experiencing constant pins and needles in his hands.

When doing up buttons on his shirt or putting on socks became virtually impossible, Richard decided it was time to see his doctor. Richard was then referred to St Vincent's neurologist, Dr Valerie Tay.

After a week of tests Richard had a diagnosis: he had chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP). Although the condition is incurable, Dr Tay – who Richard and Charmaine describe as "a brilliant doctor" – prescribed Richard a blood by-product of four bottles a fortnight to manage his condition.

Richard has spent the past four years being given fortnightly infusions at St Vincent's Private Werribee's Day Oncology Unit. He says the hospital team have become like a second family to him. And now Charmaine has joined the team as a hospital volunteer, which she is really enjoying.

"Dr Tay and Werribee hospital have given us our life back. We will be forever grateful. We hope the Winter Ball is a great success, especially because it's for such a great cause, supporting our local hospital," Richard said.

The Winter Charity Ball promises to be a night to remember with live entertainment, delicious food, drinks and the opportunity to dress to impress. Tickets to the St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee Charity Winter Ball are $100 per person and can be booked at www.iscw.com.au.

Werribee's Richard Hayes has spent his fair share of time at St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee's day oncology unit, and is excited for the pending upgrades. (Supplied)

THE ITALIAN SPORTS CLUB OF WERRIBEE'S CHARITY WINTER BALL IS BACK!

*Support*

St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee

Join us for a night of live entertainment, delicious food, dancing and fun!

Saturday 30th July 2022 at 6.30pm

Raffle and Silent Auctions on the night

Tickets are $100 – canapes on arrival, three course meal and unlimited beer, wine and soft drink

To purchase tickets:
**iscw.com.au** or call **9741 1225**

ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE HOSPITAL WERRIBEE

WST

firstcall HEALTH