

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

### SUPPORT IN NSW PARLIAMENT FOR RELAY FOR LIFE

*1<sup>st</sup> March 2004*

Member for Tamworth, Peter Draper, is encouraging local residents to participate in and support the NSW Cancer Councils Tamworth and District Relay for Life.

Mr Draper spoke in the Parliament about the premise and history of the Tamworth and District Relay for Life.

“The Relay for life is a 24-hour community event that celebrates cancer survivors, remembers people who have died from cancer, builds a cancer smart community and raises money for research and support programs conducted by the Cancer Council.

The first Relay for Life was held in Tamworth in 2002, 86 teams participated and 1,243 walkers raised \$174,378.

This amazing effort is the NSW record for the Cancer Council; to date no other Relay for Life has bettered it,” Mr Draper told Parliament.

Mr Draper also spoke of the benefits this fundraising has had in the Tamworth community.

“Funds raised from the Relay for Life have been put back into the Tamworth and District community through a large number of valuable projects and programs.

Most notable was the funding raised for a clinical trials co-ordinator at Tamworth Base Hospital. The establishment of this position offers a huge adjunct to the hospital’s existing services. It also gives us the opportunity to further explore cancer prevention, rather than trying to react after diagnoses,” Mr Draper said.

Funds raised at this years Tamworth and District Relay for Life will be used to provide a new support and information pack for newly diagnosed cancer patients in our region, cancer research, patient support and local cancer education and prevention initiatives.

“To date 43 teams have registered for this years Tamworth and District Relay for Life. The organisers hope to break the NSW record of team numbers, which currently stands at 87,” Mr Draper said.

[www.peterdraper.com.au](http://www.peterdraper.com.au)

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"I acknowledge and thank the organisers of this momentous and special event for our community and I encourage everyone, regardless of age to be at Jack Woolaston oval on Saturday and Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> to walk a few laps for cancer sufferers and survivors," Mr Draper concluded.

*A Hansard transcript of Mr Draper's speech follows.*

End Release

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