




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Rare Ovarian Cancer, Ride for Research

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.28 pm): Juvenile granulosa cell tumour, or JGCT, is a rare ovarian cancer that typically affects younger females. This insidious disease can affect women and girls of any age. In fact, Australia's youngest female diagnosed with JGCT, or rare ovarian cancer, was only 11 months old. The world's youngest person diagnosed was a little baby only four months old.

However, rare ovarian cancer is not age dependent. Women of all ages can sadly be diagnosed with this disease, including a very dear family friend of ours Claire Raeburn. Claire was 53 when she was diagnosed with JGCT. Claire is the oldest woman in the world to be diagnosed with JGCT. However, 94 per cent of patients are under 30 years of age when they are diagnosed.

Sadly, rare ovarian cancer is little heard of and receives little funding or research. There is no cure for rare ovarian cancer. There is little awareness of it nor is there research to understand the disease. Clinicians are prescribing treatments that are based on 'best guess' rather than facts. Funding for this vital research is needed.

That is why Peter Raeburn, or Rae, as we call him, with a band of volunteers including my husband, Peter Smith, have organised a ride to raise awareness and funds for research for rare ovarian cancer. Peter Smith and Rae are long-time friends. They first met in 1977 on the beach at Coolangatta while competing against each other in the Queensland Surf Life Saving titles. Over the years they have shared a house, surfed together, played rugby and touch football together and they gone to each other's weddings.

Rae, like my husband, is also a mad cyclist. When he asked my Peter to ride for rare ovarian cancer, of course my husband said yes. The ride is from Parliament House in Canberra to the Melbourne Cricket Ground from 30 April to 8 May. It has been postponed a few times due to COVID. However, everything is on track for April. That is nine days, 900 kilometres and 16 riders. That is a huge undertaking and it is really tough terrain because it is through the Snowy Mountains, Mount Kosciuszko et cetera.

To the two Peters and all the riders, I wish you all the best and I acknowledge all the training that you have done. I know my husband, Peter, is doing 100 kilometres on a regular basis and it is exhausting him. For everything that you are doing in preparation for this, I thank you. I thank all of the riders for everything they have done.

I would also particularly like to acknowledge the great sponsors because a lot of sponsors are coming out and supporting the two Peters, as well as all of the other riders, so I thank them very much. If you have any spare money please consider making a donation. You can go to www.rocinc.org.au/ride-for-research/ and make a donation. It is a charity, so any donations over \$2 are tax deductible.