A Profile

Margaret Stewart was a major influence behind the building that now bears her name. Diagnosed with terminal cancer, it was her decision to leave the bulk of her estate to the Wellington Division of the Cancer Society which kick-started the project. Her $1.2 million contribution made up a significant part of the funding for the $2.15 million project.

Born Margaret Broscombe in Yorkshire, England, on 21 August 1922, she met her husband Peter Stewart during World War II. Margaret never achieved her ambition to become a nurse but worked at Wellington Hospital for 30 years as Patient Properties Officer.

Margaret’s first close encounter with cancer came in 1978 when Peter was diagnosed with the disease. She nursed him at their home in Plimmerton and assisted with his care when it was necessary for him to be hospitalised. He died in 1980.

Until her retirement in 1987 Margaret boarded at Wellington Hospital Nurses’ Home, commuting to Plimmerton at weekends. The home overlooks the tennis courts that is now the site of the Cancer Society’s Margaret Stewart House.

Margaret had direct input into the plans for ‘her house’, as she called it, during the last months of her life.

Having lived next door to the site she advised on sun angles and made suggestions for the home’s design. Margaret Stewart died on 13 February 1996.

Margaret Stewart House

A home away from home for people who need a place to stay in Wellington while receiving outpatient cancer treatment.

Do you want to know more about cancer? Contact your local Cancer Society

Margaret Stewart House
16 Hospital Road, Wellington
Phone 04 380 0300, fax 04 380 0389
Wellington Division - 52 Riddiford Street, Newtown, Wellington
Phone 04 389 8421, fax 04 389 5994
email info@cancersoc.org.nz
website www.cancersoc.org.nz
Cancer Information Helpline 0800 CANCER (226 237)
Kapiti Branch phone 04 298 8514
Nelson Centre phone 03 146 3920
Marlborough Centre phone 03 579 4379
Wairarapa Centre phone 06 378 8039

Support and Information are available from the Cancer Society if you, or someone close to you, has cancer.

Transport
Some car parking is available on site and a local bus service is available nearby. Shuttle buses and taxis are available to and from Wellington airport, rail and bus and ferry terminals.
Welcome to Margaret Stewart House

The Cancer Society’s Margaret Stewart House provides accommodation, companionship and support to out-of-town cancer patients who are facing extended time away from home whilst undergoing treatment at the Wellington Blood and Cancer Centre.

Margaret Stewart House is situated in the grounds of Wellington Hospital, Newtown, within easy walking distance to the treatment centre.

The building is sunny and sheltered, and has been purpose-built for your comfort. The atmosphere is relaxed and residents are free to come and go as they please.

Accommodation
The Cancer Society’s Margaret Steward House can accommodate up to 40 guests. There are 16 twin rooms and two family units all with en suite facilities. Tea and coffee making facilities are also available.

During your stay you will be asked to assist with the day-to-day running of the House. Residents are responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of their units and common areas. Residents need to be self-sufficient or supported by a family member.

Margaret Stewart House facilities
- Shared kitchen, dining and living areas with full facilities
- Shared laundry & ironing area with full facilities
- A comfortable lounge with TV, DVD and video facilities
- Library
- Linen
- Outdoor area with barbecue
- Daily newspapers
- Pay phone for toll calls
- Quiet room
- Spa bath
- Parking space
- House Supervisor with volunteer support
- Sky TV in lounge

You need to supply
- Your own food
- Personal items
- Electric razor
- Hairdryer
- Laundry products
- Other toiletries such as toothpaste, shampoo, tissues, etc may be purchased from the office or nearby dairy.

Staff
The House Supervisor is assisted by Cancer Society volunteers. All referrals to Margaret Stewart House need to be made via the Wellington Blood and Cancer Centre.

Funding
The Cancer Society relies solely on the support of the community to fund the numerous services that it provides to cancer patients and their families, including Margaret Stewart House.

Any donations you can make to fund the ongoing operational costs of Margaret Stewart House are greatly appreciated.

NB: Accommodation costs for the person receiving treatment are generally met by the Ministry of Health funding. You will need to register with Healthpac (Ministry of Health) before you book accommodation at Margaret Stewart House. If eligible, a claim will be made on your behalf for a government subsidy. Please check with your referrer. When this is not the case, there will be a charge. Rates are available upon request.

Thank you. Margaret Stewart House.

For the comfort of everyone the house and grounds are SMOKEFREE.