



Internet+Cancer+CanTeen = Unprecedented Support

Australia, 6 July 2010 - Social networking has reached unprecedented levels of penetration in Australia with over 8.8 million Facebook users according to Nielsen research. CanTeen (www.canteen.org.au), the organisation for young people living with cancer, has a website called [Now What](http://www.nowwhat.org.au) (www.nowwhat.org.au), that links to a Facebook page of the same name (under groups - <http://bit.ly/NWFacebook>), to offer support to young people living with cancer via their preferred medium - the Internet.

The Internet makes it easy for a young person living with cancer to engage with others in similar circumstances, and as a result, make their lives a little easier. By using social media - including Facebook, blogs and the [Now What](http://www.nowwhat.org.au) website - CanTeen is making cancer support an easily accessible part of young people's lives.

Ali, 19, says: "Mum, cancer, died. Three crazy words a young girl never wants to hear. [Now What](http://www.nowwhat.org.au) website is so valuable because it is a safe place for me to share my feelings and the information is trustworthy and reliable. I particularly like the forums and blogs because they allow me to interact and swap stories with other young people in similar situations. The best thing about [Now What](http://www.nowwhat.org.au) is that there is feedback and information from respected experts and other young people going through similar situations, which means I am getting seamless content from many sources."

Social networking is helping young people and, with CanTeen's [Now What](http://www.nowwhat.org.au) website constantly being updated to ensure it is relevant and engaging, CanTeen is now able to reach more Members and young people than ever, specially young people that live in remote or regional areas, and those that wish to access information 24x7.

"[Now What](http://www.nowwhat.org.au) lets young people living with cancer know that even in their darkest hour, they are not alone," says adolescent psychologist Dr Michael Carr-Greg.

Young people are driving the content and interactions on the [Now What](http://www.nowwhat.org.au) website. Latest updates include:

- Cancerous Capers (<http://bit.ly/NWCancerousCapers>) - A blog by Briton Jamie Ross, a young man who was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and now in remission, which is uploaded every Monday. There is a consistent increase in hits on the [Now What](http://www.nowwhat.org.au) website following Jamie's blog, which explores life as a young person



- with cancer with humour and compassion. Along with his blog, Jamie twittered (<http://bit.ly/JRossTwitter>) about his condition.
- Friends Corner (<http://bit.ly/NWFriendsCorner>) - Contains tips, things to say, relationship advice and how to support your friends living with cancer. Young people told us what they want their friends to know about living with cancer, and we put it up!
 - Many new stories about young people living with cancer, such as:
 - Angela's Story - <http://bit.ly/NWAngelaStory>. 23, pregnant and diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma
 - Tom's Story - <http://bit.ly/NWTomStory>. 16 and his brother had cancer
 - In response to forum discussions, new factsheets on:
 - Cancer types that are hereditary (<http://bit.ly/NWHereditaryCancer>)
 - Long term effects on treatments, such as the impact on fertility - (<http://bit.ly/NWMaybeLaterBaby>)
 - New resources launched such as:
 - [Now What...?](#) Living with the death of your parent or brother or sister from cancer - (<http://bit.ly/NWBereavement>)
 - Maybe Later Baby - (<http://bit.ly/NWMaybeLaterBaby>). A guide to fertility for young people diagnosed with cancer.

Nowwhat.org.au covers cancer types and treatments, life skills and coping techniques. Young people can read stories of other young people in similar situations and know they are not alone. Young people and health professionals can order free resources and books to deal with the diagnosis. Online forums encourage young people to share their experiences. The forums are moderated to monitor conversations with appropriate safety checks. The website is unique in that no other site exists to provide this level of information and support to young people living with cancer. [Now What](#) is also intended for use by health professionals, who can use it as a resource to gather information and insight into the experiences of young people living with cancer.

Media Library

- [Now What](#) Video - discusses the research and logic behind the website (plus reviews from [Now What](#) users) - <http://bit.ly/NWVideo>
- [Now What](#) screen grabs - <http://bit.ly/ckAlhq>

About CanTeen

CanTeen is the Australian Organisation for Young People Living with Cancer. CanTeen's Members are young people (12-24 year-olds) living with cancer, including cancer patients, brothers or sisters of cancer patients and young people with a parent or primary care giver



with cancer. CanTeen provides Members with a place where they can simply be young people - away from the adult dominated environment of cancer hospitals and treatment regimes. Through its camps and programs, CanTeen encourages its Members to get involved, make friends and have fun! In the words of our Members, the most effective form of support is from other young people in a similar situation, who have "been there, done that".

For more information on CanTeen please visit www.canteen.org.au

For more information on the Now What website visit www.nowwhat.org.au

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