



HIGH-TECH SOLUTION KEEPS YOUNG PEOPLE CONNECTED

A closer look at Canteen's Robots Service

What is the Robots Service?

Cancer has a bigger impact on school than any other chronic condition. Canteen's Robots Service puts young people back in touch with teachers and friends through high-tech cameras and real-time video connections.

What we asked

We interviewed six young people, six parents, five teachers and five Canteen clinicians about the Robots Service. We asked about their connection to school, how cancer affects school experiences, relationships and later education and what they thought about the robot itself.



I really loved just being in class and listening. Not necessarily doing the work, but feeling like a part of the group, a part of the class.



Young person

Achievements



Older students valued the ability to keep up with schoolwork, while younger students appreciated being able to stay in touch with friends.



Because the service is flexible, it provided young people with the connections they valued and needed, when they needed them.



The service created meaningful connections during a time when young people felt extremely isolated and disconnected.



The service was seen to reduce distress and anxiety and improve mood and a sense of wellbeing in many cases.



These connections gave young people a sense of control and normality during their cancer treatment and experience.

What we learned

Young people, parents, teachers, and healthcare workers all talked about how important the Robots Service is, and the difference it can make for young people with cancer.

As Canteen expands the service, more young people will be able to maintain a sense of connection and wellbeing during an extremely challenging and isolating experience.



They're not in control of the cancer or the medication they have to take, so anything that they feel like they can control in their environment is really important.



Parent

**For more information, get in touch with the Canteen evaluation team:
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Canteen's vision is to provide a robot to every young cancer patient who needs one, find out more at canteen.org.au/robots