

It's Tea Time at Junee Correctional Centre

Staff at Junee Correctional Centre will host a number of Australia's Biggest Morning Tea events this week to raise vital funds for the Cancer Council and help make a difference in the lives of people impacted by cancer.

Thousands of baked goods will be available for purchase by Centre staff, including hundreds of items cooked in the new maximum security bakery with the assistance of the inmates employed there.

The items will be presented at special morning and afternoon teas hosted in the staff dining room today and tomorrow (26-27 May), to ensure everyone working different shifts can participate.

Bakery Overseer Lori-Ann Ford has been managing the bakery since 2020 and jumped at the opportunity to support the annual fundraiser, particularly after experiencing first-hand a friend's struggle with cancer.

"A very dear friend of mine passed away on Saturday and her funeral is actually on Thursday, the day of the official Biggest Morning Tea. She battled with cancer for the last few years," Ms Ford said. "It's a terrible thing to have to watch someone you love, fight so hard to keep going and be so strong for her family and friends.

"Staff and inmates at Junee Correctional Centre are proud to be supporting the Cancer Council in its life-saving cancer research, prevention, advocacy and support programs for people affected by cancer.

"The 15 inmates working in the bakery love a challenge. They love learning new things and are very eager to help, especially that it's for such a great cause," Ms Ford said.

Cancer Council's Community Relations Coordinator Christine Williams said the charity was hoping this year's Australia's Biggest Morning Tea would raise in excess of \$7million nationally.

"Cancer doesn't discriminate - it affects people from all walks of life," Ms Williams said.

"So it is heartening to see Australia's Biggest Morning Tea being supported by a wide range of people, from children, to business people, politicians, church, community and sporting groups to the inmates of Junee Correctional Centre."

ENDS

- *The GEO Group Australia is Australia's largest provider of private correctional services. Our focus is on rehabilitating prisoners and giving them the support and growth to become positive and productive contributors to our society.*
- *GEO Australia manages Junee Correctional Centre on behalf of Corrective Services NSW, with 370 staff and a capacity for 1300 prisoners. Find out more at: geogroup.com.au*