

## Team of inmates guarantees Lions Club's chariots are ready for race day

Staff and inmates at Junee Correctional Centre have helped give the South Wagga Lions Club's fleet of chariots a new lease of life in time for this year's Cancer Council's [Relay for Life](#).

Ten chariots are ready to race at Wagga Wagga's Connolly Oval on Friday, 7 October, after a project to refurbish them was completed following an approach by the Cancer Council.

Gleaming in their fresh coats of paint, the chariots were handed over to representatives of the Lions Club, along with members of the Cancer Council's Relay for Life event team, on Friday 9 September.

Junee Correctional Centre General Manager Dom Karauria said this was a great opportunity for the men involved to hone the skills they are learning in the centre's industries area.

"A team of four inmates was employed to strip the chariots back to bare metal, repair any damaged frames, prep for painting, apply a variety of colours, and then polish the wheels," Mr Karauria said.

"Projects like this offer inmates a chance to give back to the community and they feel a great sense of pride in undertaking this kind of work – it is this positive use of vocational skills and teamwork we hope inmates will use to support their reintegration into the community once they are released."

The Cancer Council's Relay for Life is a fun and moving experience that raises vital funds for the Cancer Council's research, prevention, and support services.

The event is a chance for the community to recognise and celebrate local cancer survivors, those going through a cancer experience, their carers, to honour and remember loved ones lost, and to raise money to help save more lives.

Cancer Council Wagga Wagga's Relay for Life chair, Alan Pottie, thanked Junee Correctional Centre for its support in refurbishing 10 chariots in the lead-up to this year's Relay.

"Without efforts from passionate, community-focused organisations like the correctional centre, we would not be able to continue with such successful events as the annual Relay, which is Wagga Wagga's biggest cancer fundraiser," Mr Pottie said.

"Relay for Life brings the community together to celebrate survivors and recognise the unsung heroes - their carers - while also honouring those we've lost as we continue to raise funds to support people affected by cancer, fund research and prevention programs."

### Photo caption

From left: South Wagga Lions Club's Bob Gnezdilodff and Bob Smith, Cancer Council Relay for Life's Michael Gordon and Greg Johnson from, supporter Tony Christie, and Junee Correctional Centre Trade Supervisor Peter Holt.

- *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](http://geogroup.com.au)*