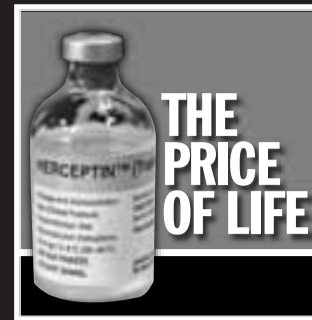


Time to act on cancer drug



A message to the Federal Government

Breast cancer patients, survivors, health advocates and popular identities have united in the fight to have the potentially life-saving drug Herceptin subsidised. Mary Papadakis reports



Victorian Health Minister Bronwyn Pike

"I am urging the Federal Health Minister, Tony Abbott, to fast-track the assessment of this drug for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme as a matter of urgency. It would be a tragedy if Australian women lost their lives unnecessarily because of bureaucratic delays."



Olympian and breast cancer survivor Raelene Boyle

"This drug is obviously the most significant thing that's happened to breast cancer in tens of years. We need to make sure as a community these people get it. We are talking about mothers and sisters and daughters. This drug has proven that it can save lives."



Breast cancer patient Jennifer Bromley

"Is it that we are not worth the votes so it's not worth saving us? It's just incredible. There are women out there who are not being told about this drug purely because their oncologists know they don't have anything to sell to get it."

Breast cancer patient and Herceptin user Alison McLean, 37

"It's a fantastic drug and every woman should have the opportunity to have it."



Federal Opposition health spokeswoman Julia Gillard

"I strongly endorse the Cancer Council's call for the listing process to be fast-tracked."



Former Victorian Premier Joan Kirner

"Any woman who has breast cancer and any family who experiences a woman with breast cancer fears that they won't be totally clear of it and any drug that safely reduces that fear makes family life and health a whole lot happier. It's a minimum expense really to put it on the drug list given the increased expense of re-treatment."



Breast Cancer Network Australia chair and breast cancer survivor Dr Patricia Edgar, AM

"BCNA is keen to have the approval process fast-tracked, especially for the young women with high-risk breast cancers, to ensure they have the best chance at survival."

Women's Health Victoria executive director Marilyn Beaumont

"The evidence shows its usefulness in prolonging women's lives after diagnosis."



Showbusiness identity Patti Newton

"I am very passionate about this cause having worked with a number of breast cancer charities. I also have a couple of friends fighting breast cancer at the moment and know that if I was in that situation, I'd like to be given every available opportunity of battling this awful disease."



Australian Nursing Federation state secretary Lisa Fitzpatrick

"All Australians should be able to access medicine that can give them a better chance at life. That's what a universal health system is about."

Cancer Council Victoria Helpline director Doreen Akkerman

"Time is of the essence for these women. I fully support the speedy progress of Herceptin through the process of inclusion on the PBS."



Think Pink chair Irene Hendel

"Women can't afford it. No woman should have to be worried about bills while fighting for their life."



Democrats leader Senator Lyn Allison

"The Government needs to weigh up the benefits of new drugs, particularly costly ones."

"However, for women whose lives might be saved, waiting nine months to get Herceptin to the top of the queue to be considered, is far too long."



Breast cancer survivor and founder of Young Action on Breast Cancer Mary Macheras-Magias

"It's important that all women have access to drugs that will help give them the best fighting chance, especially for young women who want to see their children grow up."



National Breast Cancer Foundation chair Ros Kelly AO

"Research into breast cancer is a long-term investment."

"Herceptin is a good example of being able to apply knowledge gained through research into real benefits for a particular group of people affected by breast cancer."

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- Love learning about successful business trends
- Are professionals looking to create a business

Meeting Details

Session Times (Running 2hrs)
Day : 11:30am Reg / 12pm Start
Night : 7pm Reg / 7:30pm Start

Melbourne

Day : Sat Nov 12
Night : Wed Nov 9 or
Wed Nov 16 or
Thu Nov 17

Marriott Resort
Cnr Exhibition & Lonsdale Sts

Geelong

Night only : Mon Nov 7
Four Points Sheraton
10-14 Eastern Beach Road

Caulfield

Night only : Tue Nov 8
Glen Eira Town Hall
Cnr Glen Eira & Hawthorn Roads

Doncaster

Night only : Thu Nov 10
Manningham Function Centre
699 Doncaster Road

Dandenong

Night only : Mon Nov 14
The Dandenong Club
Cnr Stud & Heatherton Roads

Frankston

Night only : Tue Nov 15
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Sinking teeth into telemarketers

ALMOST 30,000 Australians are using a prepared script designed to give pesky telemarketers a taste of their own medicine.

The script, written by a Dutchman and posted on his website, requires the house-

holder to ask the telemarketer a series of irritating questions.

One of the questions is: "Is it important to have good teeth for your job?"

Martijn Engelbregt came up with the idea for the script

when he received a cold call one Sunday morning at his home in Holland.

More than 29,000 Australians have visited his website, which is at www.xs4all.nl/~egbg/counterscript.html.