

**Madelyn Duckmanton and Ruth Cece from the Letitia Linke Research Foundation  
Ovarian Cancer Charity .**

The story behind the inception of [The Letitia Linke Research Foundation](#) – narrated by **Madelyn Duckmanton**

[Who are we and why do we want to talk to women?](#) Because Ovarian Cancer kills one woman every 8 hours in Australia and we want to change that.

Firstly [Ruth's story](#) is one of [Strength, Grace and Hope!](#) She is an example of how 90% of women could survive this most lethal of the gynaecological cancers with early detection. As someone who has had to face the diagnosis of Ovarian Cancer, her story is a powerful one, of gruelling and debilitating treatment and ultimately survival.

Ruth is passionate about finding an early detection test and helping more women survive an Ovarian Cancer diagnosis, just like she has. This is one of the major visions for our charity, to raise funds for research to find an early detection test. Speed is of the essence to save women's lives now and in the future.

My story is one of a [Mother and Grandmother](#) with a background in Medical Pathology, who understood exactly what the diagnosis of Ovarian Cancer meant for her precious daughter. I knew the chances of my daughter surviving beyond 5 years were less than 30% and that the treatment would be devastating to her life and body.

I also knew that the treatment my daughter would receive was generic, and had not advanced in 30 years, unlike most other cancers. Whilst it is effective for most women initially, the majority would suffer a relapse, with further chemotherapy to follow, and often than not much less effective this time around. The constant strain of treatment and the disease leads to the very low survival rate of women with Ovarian Cancer. There is a great need for better treatment, more directed, personalised, precision treatment to improve outcomes.

[The Letitia Linke Research Foundation is a not for profit charity named after the late Letitia Linke who died of Ovarian Cancer aged 38, the mother of two young boys.](#)

After diagnosis and while undergoing chemotherapy, radiotherapy and multiple surgeries she advocated on behalf of all women for more funding for research to find an early detection test for Ovarian Cancer. Letitia set about raising awareness of the signs and symptoms of Ovarian Cancer, and raising funds for research. She knew this would not change her pathway, however her passion was to find an early detection test, so other women and their families might not have to go through what she did.

In one year she raised in excess of \$100,000. The Letitia Linke Research Foundation Inc - continues her legacy and the fight against Ovarian Cancer.

**IT COULD BE YOUR MOTHER, WIFE, SISTER, FRIEND OR EVEN YOUR DAUGHTER**

### **Madelyn is Letitia's mother and Ruth is a friend of Letitia's and a survivor of Ovarian Cancer**

The foundation is raising funds for a screening test as many women are misdiagnosed. Early detection is best but many women aren't diagnosed till Stage 4 because the symptoms can be vague. Diagnosis can also sometimes be vague....."women's issues".

Pap smear and HPV test do not diagnose ovarian cancer.

Ruth who was a close friend of Letitia's urged us as women, to really listen to our bodies and put ourselves first. We often put things off

Treatment in Australia has changed little in 30 years

4 women per day are diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer, many at advanced stages. Letitia's diagnosis came 18 months after she first presented to her GP with symptoms. This is a common thread in the story of many Australian women.

An early detection test for Ovarian Cancer would be the number one breakthrough to save women's lives.

Proportionally more women die of Ovarian Cancer than breast cancer because of late stage diagnosis.

Stage 1 diagnosis survival is as high as 92%.

Ovarian cancer is the most lethal gynaecological cancer

In Australia, every 8 hours, one woman dies from Ovarian Cancer.  
<https://llrf.org.au/>

Recently announced in late July 2021

" A test being developed in Queensland could help to reduce the high mortality rate from ovarian cancer by dramatically improving the accuracy of early detection.

University of Queensland researchers said the test had successfully detected more than 90 per cent of early ovarian cancer compared to 50 per cent for existing methods."