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# Armstrong an inspiration to those with cancer

By Mike Sexton of The 7.30 Report

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**When Lance Armstrong was riding toward the Arc de Triomphe in Paris to claim his seventh Tour de France title in 2005, across the other side of the world Ashleigh Moore was lying in a hospital bed in Adelaide watching in awe.**

The 47-year-old was recovering from his second operation to remove the cancer that had started in his tonsils and spread to his neck and tongue.

Like Armstrong when he was diagnosed with testicular cancer in 1996, the odds were against Moore surviving.

Watching the Texan win one of the world's most gruelling sporting events was an inspiration for Moore, who endured 30 rounds of radiotherapy and multiple chemotherapy doses to beat his cancer.

This year, the two men met briefly in Dublin as a result of their determination to make changes for cancer patients and survivors.

Mr Moore heads the advocacy group Cancer Voices SA which raises awareness of the disease and issues surrounding its treatment.

"Often people don't talk about it (cancer), they want to forget which is fine," he said.

"But if there is to be change there needs to be more talk in the community and with the decision makers about what needs to happen with cancer and how it affected them."

One of the ways the group is reaching out is via its cycling team, which is made up entirely of riders who have been touched by cancer in some way.

## Paralysed

One of them is Paul Garrick, who was diagnosed with a brain tumour 11 years ago and continues to have treatment for the disease.

Last year he took part in the community ride as part of the Tour Down Under in Adelaide, despite the right side of his body still being paralysed as the result of an operation on his brain six weeks earlier.



Armstrong inspires those with cancer (ABC Grandstand: Luke Pentony)

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Garrick clipped his numb right leg into the bike stirrup and completed the 150 kilometres, crossing the finish line to the delight of his wife and two daughters who were waiting for him.

He was one of more than 100 riders in the Cancer Voices SA team and word of their effort got through to Armstrong who described it as "heroic".

As a result, the cyclist's foundation Livestrong invited Mr Moore and two others from Cancer Voices SA to Dublin for his global summit, a chance for groups from around the world to share information and strategies for fighting the disease.

Ashleigh Moore was one of eight international delegates invited to speak onstage.

"To make any impact or to change the current health system, we need numbers and support to show what the community wants to happen with cancer care and wellness," he argues.

"The treatment I got was the same as what I would have received 20 years ago so unless people talk about cancer and raise issues, things won't change."

This week in Adelaide, Armstrong reflected on the first year of his global campaign, explaining it had been bigger than he had thought.

"We expected to have about 300 participants and ended up having more than 500 from 69 countries with billions of dollars being committed to these local or federal programs," he said.

"Sometimes it requires that room to come together and mobilise otherwise we can talk about things on a very local level but if you don't combine these voices together you will never know."

Now Armstrong is on his bike as part of another gruelling season he hopes will take him to the podium in Paris.

There will be no such glory for the members of the Cancer Voices team but the inspiration of Armstrong will linger long after the professionals have left town.

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- [Business](#)
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- [Entertainment](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [The Drum](#)
- [Blogs](#)
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