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Survivor: Louise Dodd CEO
of Hurstville Private
Hospital.

Cancer altered her focus

By **Mark Barbeliuk**

WHILE Louise Dodd is best known as the head of Hurstville Private Hospital and the person credited with turning the hospital's fortunes around, the 46-year-old knows all too well what it is like to be a patient.

In November 2002, Ms Dodd was working at St George Private Hospital when she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I had 800 people reporting to me in some capacity, so I wrote to

them explaining the journey I was undertaking," she said.

"I had a grade three cancer which I knew was serious."

Ms Dodd underwent surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy before being given the all clear.

That experience redefined Ms Dodd's professional life. She went to Urology Sydney hoping to make a real difference in the lives of patients, before being offered the top job at Hurstville Private.

"I wanted to help people from the moment they meet the specialist

through their journey," she said.

"I was particularly interested in raising interest in prostate cancer, which is almost as big a problem as breast cancer but not as high profile."

To mark her own experience with cancer, Ms Dodd has her annual check on Melbourne Cup day.

"When the rest of the country is placing their bets on Melbourne Cup Day, I have my annual check to ensure the cancer hasn't returned, and afterwards I celebrate with a quiet champagne with colleagues."