



■ On track ... the Gerbera Girls team has raised more than \$1100 by walking non-stop for 18 hours.

Staying on track to walk for funds

By LISA JOYCE

A MT Ommaney couple has stepped out for a good cause.

Rod Poppeliers and his partner Catherine Shanahan were part of a team that participated in the Relay for Life earlier this month, raising funds for cancer research, education and patient support programs.

The pair was part of a 12-member team called The Gerbera Girls, which braved the cold for the 18-hour event at ANZ Stadium.

The event required at least one walker from each team

to be on the relay track at all times while others were given the chance to rest, watch entertainment or take part in fundraising while camping on site.

Ms Shanahan said the team, led by Lissy Gartner, whose sister Anastasia died of cancer, raised more than \$1100.

She said she and Rod had done the Relay for Life for three years.

"Despite the seriousness of the day, there is a festive atmosphere at the stadium, and a strong sense of camaraderie as everyone joins together for a common

cause," Ms Shanahan said.

Mr Poppeliers, who works at Education City in Springfield Lakes, said the event was getting bigger and better every year.

"Across the board everyone is touched by cancer," Mr Poppeliers said.

"I have even got relatives in Sydney now who are going through chemotherapy.

"This is a reminder how lucky we are not to have cancer."

The team was sponsored by Springfield Lakes business Greater Springfield Digital Edge Corporation Pty Ltd.