



NEWS UPDATE July 2013

Say No to Gene Patents Campaign

Cancer Voices continues to call for an amendment to the Patents Act 1990 to remove the ability to patent human genetic material. For CVA, Sally Crossing was invited to address the Coalition Backbench Policy Committee on 24 June – the last sitting week of Parliament. Her address, posted on [Croakey 4 July](#), was a good opportunity to discuss the impact of the very positive decision against patenting human genes by the US Supreme Court on 13 June. CVA members will be attending the Australian Federal Court (full Bench) hearing of the Appeal against the February decision, on 7-8 August in Sydney.

Review of chemotherapy funding arrangements <http://www.health.gov.au/chemo-review>

Cancer Voices has played an active advocacy role on this issue over the last six months and is pleased that our formal call for a full review has been expedited by Minister Plibersek, Minister for Health. The aim of the Review is *“to maximize the benefits consumers receive from chemotherapy infusions by ensuring efficient and effective clinical processes and appropriate funding arrangements for the preparation and supply of those infusions”*. Cancer Voices is making a formal submission to the Review. We are working with Consumers Health Forum of Australia which has been engaged to consult directly with consumers and consumer groups. Contact us about opportunities to contribute, or you can do so directly to the Review by end July. The Review will report to the Minister by October.

Waiting times for elective cancer surgery <http://www.myhospitals.gov.au/>

Cancer Voices nominated two representatives to this National Health Performance Authority (NHPA) Advisory Committee, Don Matters from Cancer Voices SA and Sally Crossing from Cancer Voices NSW. It will report around the end of August and outcomes will be of great interest to people affected by cancer and service planners.

Cancer Australia Strategic Plan 2014-2019 Stakeholder Forum

Cancer Voices members invited to attend this Forum on 16 August, will contribute several issues which have been productively discussed with CA recently. Among these are:

- Development of guidelines for best practice management for cancers lacking this, with a central repository, preferably CA’s website, for access to all authoritative Guidelines available,
- Collection of reliable statistics re extent of cancer treatment provided in the private sector, and
- Uniform Quality Assurance across all public and private clinics and hospitals to ensure that treatment provided meets guidelines and protocols accepted as best practice.

Radiation Oncology <http://www.ranzcr.edu.au/advocacy/consumers>

CVmembers have been invited to attend the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Radiology’s (RANZCR) Tripartite Radiation Oncology Consumer Forum on 13 August regarding strategic plans.

COSA 2013 Consumer Forum in Adelaide on 11 November <http://www.cosa2013.org/>

Cancer Voices will be working with Cancer Council SA and the Clinical Oncology Society Australia (COSA) to plan the annual Consumer Forum which is associated with this major Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian cancer “world”.

Consumer representation: Stakeholders are invited to use CVA’s website to be matched with informed, “capable” consumers who can provide the broad view of people affected by cancer.

Cancer Voices is the independent, volunteer voice of Australians affected by cancer - since 2000

