

## Cancer Voices Australia NEWS UPDATE

August 2014

### ***Parliamentarians Supporting Cancer Causes – Event with Cancer Voices***

**The new Australian Cancer Consumer Network (ACCN)** of 28 participant groups will be formally launched at a special event at Parliament House, Canberra on 26 November, co-hosted by the Parliamentary Friends and CVA. Invitations with details will be sent out soon. This will be an excellent opportunity for MPs and Senators to meet people affected by cancer and their organisations – and vice versa!

### ***Travel insurance for people with cancer – on the agenda again***

CVA is looking into (i) a survey of insurers who offer cover for travel and (ii) discussing policy clarification with the Insurance Council of Australia. It remains a very confusing area for people who have had or who have cancer. CVA believes it's time for clarification, and is seeking partners to do so.

### ***Access to high cost cancer drugs***

Progress here – the Consumer Workstream, in which CVA participates, has met and developed its program, which will include a survey of consumer groups involved with the Cancer Drugs Alliance. A statement will be presented in November at a second face to face meeting in Canberra.

### ***FCIC Survivorship Conference [www.survivorship2015.org](http://www.survivorship2015.org)***

Registration and abstracts for the Survivorship 2015 Conference are now open. Cancer Voices SA has taken a lead gathering diverse views to ensure consumer values in presentations of this major topic are heard.

### ***Oncology Practice Standards***

Following discussion with CVA, the AS&QHC Commission undertook a mapping exercise regarding the Radiation Oncology Practice Standards. CVA met with the Dean of the Faculty of Radiation Oncology to discuss implications and will partner in further promoting their adoption. Similar Practice Standards for Medical Oncology remain on the agenda.

### ***Consumers attending cancer conferences***

Cancer consumers become more capable by attending cancer related conferences, which keep them up-to-date and offer important networking opportunities. This improves their ability to contribute to discussion and decision making. CVA is working with funders and professional bodies to enable consumers access.

### ***Honorary Doctorate for CVA Convenor***

CVA congratulates Sally Crossing AM, on being awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Sydney: *“for extraordinary leadership and contributions to supporting those with cancer from diagnosis, through treatment, care support and survivorship, in both advocacy and research”*. Sally said *“this most welcome recognition also honours the value of our mutual cause – cancer consumer advocacy”*.

### ***Matching services for policy, service and research decision-makers: see [www.cancervoicesaustralia.org](http://www.cancervoicesaustralia.org)***

CVA offers a free service for nominating informed consumers to working parties, committees and research projects. Requests should be made through the CVA website, where our two Guides – about roles and expectations for consumers themselves, and for researchers, are posted.

### ***Recent Submissions***

Recent CVA submissions include: House of Reps Inquiry into Skin Cancer in Australia – Evidence at Adelaide and Sydney hearings; ACCC Review of Medicines Australia Code of Conduct; NHMRC Consultation re Revised Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research. See CVA website

