

Cancer Voices Australia NEWS UPDATE

July 2016

Election Issues for Australians affected by cancer: Cancer Voices received responses from the Coalition, Labor Party and the Greens in response to the [five priority issues](#) identified in the late 2015 survey of the thirty Australian Cancer Consumer Network (ACCN) groups. The Greens agreed to support all 5 issues. A further letter signed by a number of ACCN groups to party leaders asked that recommendations of the 2015 Senate Inquiry into New & Innovative Cancer Drugs and received three similar responses. Cancer Voices Australia will continue to raise our priorities with Health Minister Sussan Ley in her ongoing role, and Dr David Gillespie, the new Assistant Minister for Rural Health.

Needed: an Australian Cancer Statistics Strategy for Big Data? Consumers are keen for Australian cancer statistics to be collected and published in a timely and comprehensive fashion to inform decisions around effectiveness of treatments, variations in outcomes; also for planning health services and workforce based on emerging trends. Cancer Voices will be working with Cancer Council Australia and others to identify the barriers and seek solutions.

Patient Reported Outcomes can be an additional important source of information, as reported recently from the [Cancer Patient Experience Survey](#) conducted by the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre.

Consumer Involvement in Research (CIR) - matching informed consumers to researchers' requests:

The report on Cancer Voices' Evaluation of the CIR Program will shortly be sent to participants and stakeholders, including cancer research funders, such as the Cancer Councils and Foundations, research institutions and relevant government agencies. The aim is to provide evidence of a successful working model and its value. Abstracts have been submitted for three conferences. The results also will inform fine tuning of the CIR training held with Cancer Council NSW, and Cancer Voices' free matching service for researchers. Other states and health conditions will find the insights helpful when introducing CIR.

Cancer Australia Consumer Forum : Thanks to Cancer Australia for hosting a well-attended Consumer Forum on 27 June in Sydney. This gave CA and consumers from a wide range of groups the opportunity to hear and discuss some projects of major interest to people affected by cancer, including the Stage, Treatment and Recurrence (STaR) project which aims to achieve more comprehensive and timely cancer data (see above).

Patient Opinion www.patientopinion.org.au: "Patients' feedback -good or bad - is essential to improving Australian health services." Cancer Voices Australia is encouraging consumer to contribute to Patient Opinion, to share your story and help make a difference.

Consumers Included "seal of approval"



Cancer Voices is pleased to announce that the Consumers Included logo has been awarded for use by a number of cancer conference/ events to date, with more in the pipeline. Those applicants who met the simple criteria which show that they do indeed involve consumers are: the Australian Gastro Intestinal Trials Group for their Annual Scientific Meeting and their AGITG Pancreatic Cancer Research Workshop; Genesis CancerCare Co-design Forum, the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre's Survivorship Conference and The Psycho-Oncology Research Conference, and the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) Annual Scientific Meeting. For more information please contact Consumers Included at info@consumersincluded.org.au. We look forward to seeing the Consumers Included distinctive logo on most cancer related events' material.