



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**10 May 2013**

### **Cancer patients welcome Senate chemo findings**

Cancer Voices Australia (CVA) welcomes the Report of the Senate Community Affairs References Committee on *'The Supply of Chemotherapy Drugs such as Docetaxel'*, released today.

"The Senate Report highlights the extent of unintended cross-subsidies and how messy, complex, even unresolved are the arrangements with the Pharmacy Guild under the \$15.6 billion Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5PCA)" said CVA spokesperson, Sally Crossing.

It is even more important now that the general Review into Chemo Funding, announced by Minister Plibersek last weekend, is given teeth. CVA strongly recommends the reviewers include an informed health consumer representative to ensure their view is in the mix. This would demonstrate commitment to public transparency in arriving at recommendations. The consumer voice and opinion has been excluded from these processes for too long.

CVA maintains its position of regret regarding lobbying from some quarters which frightened cancer patients needing treatment, especially in regional areas, by suggesting that private services, would be reduced or discontinued.

Cancer Voices supports the Senate Report's recommendation that the Australian National Audit Office be asked to examine the 5PCA and where the \$15.6b goes. We would also support Government to seek a Productivity Commission Inquiry.

### **CONTACTS**

Kathy Smith

M: 0415 785814

Sally Crossing

T: 02 9436 1755 / 02 48 851 050 (weekend)

---

Cancer Voices Australia is the independent, 100% volunteer voice of people affected by cancer, working to improve the cancer experience for Australians, their families and friends. We are active in the areas around diagnosis, information, treatment, research, support, care, survivorship and policy.

To achieve this we work with decision-makers, ensuring the patient perspective is heard.

Cancer Voices has led the cancer consumer movement in Australia since 2000. The CVA network across Australia shares objectives and works together on national issues identified as important by their members, with consumers working to help others affected by cancer.

Cancer Voices Australia is the independent, volunteer voice of people affected by cancer since 2000.

