

## 2013 ELECTION ISSUES FOR AUSTRALIANS AFFECTED BY CANCER

In the interests of better advising Cancer Voices' members, their friends and families so they can make an informed vote this election, we are surveying the major political parties regarding issues which our members have told us are the most important to them. Once received, we will circulate their responses among our members and networks and make posts on our website and Facebook.

### The questions are:

1. Does your Party support the removal of the ability to grant patents over naturally occurring human genetic material?
2. Should all cancer treatment centres, public and private clinics be required to be accredited for standards of clinical care?
3. Cancer patients and their medical advisers need central access to authoritative best practice clinical guidelines via a central website, such as Cancer Australia's: would your Party support this?
4. Timing of approvals for new cancer drugs and tests is improving but needs more attention: would your Party support further review of the TGA, PBAC and MSAC processes to this end?
5. Does your Party agree that public cancer patients should not have to face cost add-ons, and especially for standard chemotherapy treatment?
6. Community Pharmacy Agreements (CPA): health consumers recommend that the CPAs should have stakeholder participation, including health consumers, and be transparent re what \$15.6b over 5 years provides Australian taxpayers. What is your Party's view?
7. Does your Party agree that a Medicare rebate should be given to those cancer diagnostic tools which are commonly used overseas, eg PET scans?
8. What is your view on the need for equity in access to palliative care services, with appropriate funding via the states?
9. Co-ordination of cancer care: cancer patients commend the introduction of national guidelines to ensure clarity re what co-ordination of services should be provided and expected – would your Party support this?
10. Cancer patients and referring doctors need access to Directories of Cancer Specialist Services, similar to NSW's *Canrefer* website. Would your Party support this development in other states?
11. Patient held cancer treatment and care plans will improve efficiency and outcomes: what is your view on requiring these be introduced?
12. Lymphoedema garments currently do not have a Medicare item number and are very costly for those who need them: would your Party support adding this to Medicare coverage?
13. Cancer patients want cancer research to be more focussed on personalised medicine and targeted therapies: does your Party commit to supporting this as a priority?
14. Would your Party support a conscience vote about legalising the medical use of marijuana for the terminally ill?
15. Travel for rural patients can be costly & deter treatment: would your Party commit to reconsidering a national patient travel assistance scheme, including assistance to participate in clinical trials?
16. We look for a commitment to continue excellent initiatives introduced over the current Government's term, eg improved cancer data collection by the AIHW and Cancer Australia

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

