

MEDIA RELEASE

14 June 2013

PEOPLE WITH CANCER WELCOME US SUPREME COURT GENE PATENTS DECISION

Cancer Voices Australia today welcomed the good news that a unanimous decision by the US Supreme Court effectively bans patents on naturally occurring human genes.

Cancer Voices Spokesperson Sally Crossing said “our genes are not invented by companies like Myriad Genetics, so we are very pleased that this has been legally confirmed. We support patenting of real inventions and recognise their value to innovators, the economy and the community. But this anomaly badly needs to be addressed”.

“The US Supreme Court 13 June decision means that women in America will have cheaper and better access to genetic tests for breast cancer risks – as will researchers. The US decision will have far-reaching influence, especially for the Appeal hearing by the Australian Federal Court to be heard by a five judge Bench in early August - just before the election” she said.

Cancer Voices Australia, the independent volunteer voice of people affected by cancer, was a joint initiator of the Australian case which resulted in a negative decision in February this year.

“This news is very encouraging. **We now look to our politicians to develop and pass a brief amendment to the Patents Act to reflect the wishes of the Australian people**” said Sally Crossing.

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

