



MEDIA RELEASE

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People with cancer meet national parliamentarians

The Australian Cancer Consumer Network (ACCN) was launched at Parliament House, Canberra today.

The ACCN brings together 30 groups for a bigger voice as well as to share information, experiences and issues. It is facilitated by Cancer Voices Australia.

Cancer Voices Australia Convenor, Sally Crossing AM said “bringing us all together like this for the first time is exciting and empowering. It shows that our national representatives are truly keen to be connected to the needs and ideas of people affected by cancer”.

Dan Tehan MP and Senator Deb O’Neil, leaders of the Parliamentarians Supporting Cancer Causes welcomed the new network of 30 cancer consumer groups and organisations, saying: “This direct relationship and today’s recognition of it will help us all. We look forward keeping our doors open to Australians affected by cancer through the new Network”.

The event also honoured the twentieth anniversary of the Australian cancer consumer movement – now uniting through the ACCN to give it a stronger voice, when necessary. Network groups also share information, action techniques and experiences.

Cancer is now the greatest cause of Australian deaths. An estimated 128,000 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in Australia this year, with that number set to rise to 150,000 by 2020. The ACCN can speak to decision-makers with one voice when necessary, especially in a time of increasing pressures on our health system, greater need than ever before to access treatments for people with cancer or for helping smaller, less known cancers to be heard.

The Parliamentarians invited Cancer Voices Australia to co-host and organise this first of its kind event so that MPs and Senators could meet people affected by cancer. All received a copy of a *Who’s Who* in the ACCN so that the various cancer consumer groups could be easily found – under one cover at last.

An Australian Cancer Consumer Network list follows.

CONTACTS

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Copies of the *Who’s Who* 2014 Directory will be available on the Cancer Voices website

The Australian Cancer Consumer Network links:

Australian Thyroid Foundation
Bowel Cancer Australia
Brain Tumour Alliance Australia
Breast Cancer Action Group
Breast Cancer Network Australia
Cancer Action Victoria
Cancer Voices ACT
Cancer Voices Australia
Cancer Voices NSW
Cancer Voices South Australia
CanSpeak Qld
CANTEEN
CUP Action
Dragons Abreast
GI Cancer Institute
Gynaecological Awareness Information Network (GAIN)
Lung Cancer Network Australia
Lymphoedema Action Alliance
Lymphoma Australia
Lynch Syndrome Australia
Melanoma Patients Australia
Myeloma Australia
Oesophageal Cancer Awareness Group
Ovarian Cancer Australia
Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia
Rare Cancers Australia
The Kids Cancer Project
Unicorn Foundation
Wmozzies

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 works together on national issues identified as important by their members, with consumers working to help others affected by cancer. CVA facilitates the Australian Cancer Consumer Network.

