

Cancer Voices Australia NEWS UPDATE

December 2014

Launch of the Australian Cancer Consumer Network (ACCN) & it Who's Who Directory

Parliamentarians Supporting Cancer Causes, chaired by Senator Deb O'Neil and Dan Tehan MP hosted an event with Cancer Voices at Parliament House Canberra on 26 Nov. It was attended by 40 representatives of the 30 ACCN consumer groups who enjoyed the opportunity to meet each other and politicians; all received a copy of the 'Who's Who' directory – see link on <http://www.cancervoicesaustralia.org/accn/>. The event honoured the twentieth anniversary of cancer consumer advocacy in Australia: 1994-2014,. A short history appeared in *Cancer Forum's* Nov. issue: http://www.cancerforum.org.au/file/2014/November/13_Letter.pdf



Better access to cancer drugs: Cancer Voices has continued working with the Cancer Drugs Alliance and welcomes a report, based on the surveyed views of 16 cancer consumer organisations - to be posted on CVA website. PBAC & MSAC agenda items continue to be responded to.

CVA and ACCN groups will make a submission to the new Senate Inquiry into *Availability of new, innovative and specialist cancer drugs in Australia* (submissions are due by 27th Feb 2015)

http://www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Cancer_Drugs.

Consumer Involvement in Research: Cancer Voices is participating in the development of Consumer Online Training for involvement in research with the NBCF and the Cancer Council NSW. We are also active in the review of the NHMRC's portal to clinical trials. The CV "matching" service continues to link researchers with suitably skilled consumer reps.

Access to Medical Cannabis – support widens:

CVA welcomes moves across Australia towards resolving access in a safe and quality assured way.

National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM)

We are in discussion about a project looking at cancer and complementary and alternative therapies.

Consumers attending cancer conferences

Two representatives of CVA attended the COSA ASM conference in Melbourne 2-4 December.

Other consumers in the ACCNetwork attended the UICC's WCC, 4-6 Dec, which followed COSA.

Recognition: The Chancellor of the University of Sydney conferred an Honorary Doctorate on CVA convenor Sally Crossing AM, on 28 November. Sally's Occasional Address to the graduates was warmly received.

FCIC Survivorship Conference www.survivorship2015.org: Sally Crossing has been invited to give the first Ashleigh Moore Memorial Oration, honouring Cancer Voices SA's Founding Chair, on 6 Feb 2015 in Adelaide.

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and a New Year full of good consumer engagement!

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

