

Cancer Voices Australia NEWS UPDATE

April 2015

Cancer Consumers' Survivorship Framework: Consumers have distributed a call for a high level statement about best practice survivorship for people diagnosed with cancer and their carers. We wish to add the essential consumer perspective into the mix, which now includes the Flinders Charter, the COSA position statement for health professionals and those of other service providers. CVA is seeking a framework or best practice guide under the masthead of Cancer Australia. CVA has adopted the one- pager as its Position Statement – see CVA website. The 25 March edition of Oncology Network carried an article by Sally Crossing outlining the consumer statement, see <http://oncologynews.com.au/cancer-survivors-call-for-a-survivorship-care-framework/>

Better access to cancer drugs: Cancer Voices and other cancer consumer groups attended the Canberra launch of the Cancer Drugs Alliance White Paper on 24 March - see www.cancerdrugsalliance.org.au. We await the recommendations of the Senate Inquiry into *Availability of new, innovative and specialist cancer drugs in Australia* to which a number of consumer groups made submissions, including CVA.

Senate Inquiry into Regulator of Medical Cannabis Bill 2014

CVA was invited to appear before the Senate Committee hearing on 31 March to offer the cancer consumer view, along with Ms Lucy Haslam, who with her son Dan, campaigned successfully in NSW for better access for people who would benefit from medical cannabis. CVA supports the Bill.

CVA contributions to current Reviews,

CVA joined forces with Consumers Health Forum and the Chronic Illness Alliance to press for an overhaul of **Community Pharmacy Agreement** which taxpayers currently fund at \$15.4 billion over five years. We are seeking inclusion as key stakeholders in discussions and a delay in renewal until the Australian National Audit Office recommendations are considered and all affected parties have been consulted. The 1 April Statement follows the Competition Policy (Harper) Report's similar findings of concern, especially as they relate to choice, transparency and value for retail business subsidy.

CVA has participated in the CHF survey of consumer views re **Life Saving Drugs Program**.

International links

CVA has renewed its links with the [European Cancer Patients Union](#) and the [James Lind Alliance](#).

Consumers attending cancer conferences

We continue to seek a few registration free places to enable unsalaried cancer consumers to attend relevant cancer conferences. One international conference offered full subsidy to attend *Health Care in Asia 2015* in Hong Kong. But the situation in Australia remains less than optimal.

Gene Patent Appeal to be heard by High Court: This latest Appeal is now expected to be heard in June, and a more positive outcome is eagerly awaited.

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

