

Cancer Voices Australia NEWS UPDATE

June 2015

Federal Budget 2015 & Cancer

CVA welcomes budget announcements about earlier access to superannuation for the terminally ill from 1 July, a long standing issue for people affected by cancer; PBS news re funding new drugs for breast, colorectal and melanoma cancers; and \$400m over the next four years for researchers via the Medical Research Future Fund.

Cancer Consumers' Survivorship Framework: Our call for a high level statement about best practice survivorship for people diagnosed with cancer and their carers has been heard by Cancer Australia. We look forward to working with them and the other partners with specific interest and expertise in this area over the coming months.

Better access to cancer drugs: We all await the recommendations, due 17 June, of the Senate Inquiry into *Availability of new, innovative and specialist cancer drugs in Australia*. CVA has made a supplementary submission re a new UK model for accessing cancer drugs prior to approval.

Travel insurance for cancer patients

CVA has written to the Insurance Council of Australia outlining the problems faced by people affected by cancer when trying to arrange appropriate travel insurance, and way these might be addressed. We are in discussions with the McCabe Centre for Law & Cancer, the ACCN (especially BTAA and BCNA) and the Cancer Councils.

Senate Inquiry into Regulator of Medical Cannabis Bill 2014

Hopes are high that a favourable recommendation from the Senate Committee Inquiry will clear the way for a rational national approach to the production and use of medical cannabis or the benefit of people with cancer. CVA was invited to give evidence at the Inquiry's Sydney hearing on 31 March.

The Great Screening Debate on again

Following two new papers on this topic and subsequent media excitement, and focussing on the BreastScreen example, Sally Crossing has written a personal OpEd piece to (i) ask that the consumer view be invited into the mix of opinions and to (ii) question the ethics of further emphasising the "harms" (and what is their real degree?) of screening, when we do not yet know which small screen-detected cancers will develop into the serious kind.

CVA contributions to current Reviews,

- *Implementing shared care of cancer patients in primary and specialist care setting*
- *Chronic Disease Prevention and Management in Primary Health Care Inquiry*
- *Orphan Drugs Inquiry*

Consumers attending cancer conferences

We are hopeful that some major conference organisers will respond favorably to our request for registration free inclusion, and better still, full scholarships for unwaged and networked cancer consumers to attend relevant cancer conferences in Australia.

Gene Patent Appeal to be heard by High Court: This latest Appeal is now expected in mid-June. Many fingers are crossed for a positive result.

New CEO Cancer Council Australia: CVA warmly welcomes the announcement of the appointment of Professor Sanchia Aranda as its new Chief Executive Officer.