

Message to Members

We are delighted to be sending you a copy of our new publication :
“A Decade of Success: Cancer Voices NSW 2000-2010”

We hope you will enjoy its discussion of our purpose, history of activities- and people involved over our first ten years; reflections; comments from stakeholder’s; case studies and thoughts about the next decade. We believe it is important that disease-specific health consumer groups like ours should record and take stock in a permanent way. Special thanks to all those who contributed to the final text - you are immortalised!

Copies have gone to all our key stakeholders and we will use it to profile the work of Cancer Voices NSW at every opportunity. If you would like more copies, email us at info@cancervoices.org.au.

And thanks to the Cancer Care Centre at Macquarie University Hospital for assisting us financially with getting our decade into print.

Palliative Care Campaign 2011 - A Big Win!

Following the tabling of a 23,000 signature petition in June by NSW Premier Barry O’Farrell, a debate was held in Parliament on 10 August. CVN briefed speakers, issued a media release, and Yvonne McMaster, who spearheaded the petition raising, contacted all politicians in the Northern Sydney Area, all of whom were very supportive of the local part of the cause. Just before the debate, the Minister for Health, the Hon. Jillian Skinner, advised Yvonne and me that the funding cuts of over \$1m that had previously been made in Northern Sydney Local Health District would be restored and a commitment to increasing palliative care services across the state was given by the Minister.

On the evening of the debate, there was a full gallery of supporters and five Parliamentary speakers, an interesting experience for us all. Now to follow up the Government’s promises, especially those relating to transparent palliative care service funding agreements reflecting community needs across the state.



Sally Crossing, Jillian Skinner & Yvonne McMaster

Cancer Voices has been busy in the Consumer Involvement in Research area these last months with some major submissions and meetings to progress this program - see inside.

Please keep your issues coming in, either as group or individual members. Cancer Voices NSW is membership-based, as a health consumer organisation should be. The more we hear from our constituents, the more we can move on their needs and ideas.

Best Wishes

Sally Crossing AM, Chair

CVN NOTICEBOARD

Learn about Advocacy, and How to Do it! Last Consumer Advocacy Training (CAT) Courses for 2011-2012

25th and 26th Nov 2011 then

16th & 17th March 2012 and 18th & 19th May 2012

For applications & venues please go to <http://www.cancercouncil.com.au/advocates/workshops>
or contact : Cancer Council NSW (Policy & Advocacy) on 02-9334 1406 or
advocacy@nswcc.org.au for an application by mail

Cancer Voices NSW recommend that anyone interested in speaking up, developing and promoting policy for improvements, writing about their ideas or concerns, being a CVN consumer representative on committees, working parties, etc. and in generally joining the action to improve things for people affected by cancer - should enroll in this excellent introductory course

Website Requests & Interaction

Consumer Reps requests: To request a consumer representative for your organisation or group, please complete the form online (see note below)

Membership: To apply for membership of Cancer Voices, either as an organisational or as an individual member, please download a copy of the Membership Form.

Other Features:

- * All CVN newsletters are held on our website and are searchable
- * 26 Position Statements about matters of interest for CVN members are posted and updated
- * For cancer without support groups, use the website to bring people together

INTERACTION ACCESS: To restrict spam, you must be a registered user of this wiki website, www.cancervoices.org.au. To register and receive your username and password, please send an email to info@cancervoices.org.au requesting registration. You will receive an email in reply, usually the next business day, detailing your allocated username and password. We are doing this for security of website discussions, and to keep out undesirables. So do give it a try and tell us what you think or what you need!



Lifehouse are proud to have initiated a groundbreaking new publication for people living with cancer. The *LifeSupport* Magazine, is an innovative new publication, which is set to impact positively on the millions of Australians affected by cancer every year. *LifeSupport* is a comprehensive guide, written at a human level and covers everything from making decisions about the available cancer treatments, to coping with fatigue, dealing with side effects, handling stress, managing money, negotiating work arrangements, making fertility decisions, being a carer, and much more. Visit the website www.lifesupportmagazine.com.au for more information.



Lifehouse have initiated a new magazine – *LifeSupport*
Essential reading for Australians with Cancer and all those who love and support them

ON SALE JUNE 24 FOR \$7.95 AT YOUR LOCAL NEWSAGENT
or online at www.lifesupportmagazine.com.au

CVN Committee News

The CVN Executive Committee met on 27 July and will meet again on 21 September, 2011.

Membership: There are currently 85 group (voting) memberships, and 336 individual members.

CVN members interested in being a part of the CVN Committee are most welcome to join us for a meeting or two to see how it works. We are always keen for new ideas and skills.

CVN granted Deductible Gift Recipient status

This means that donations to CVN are now tax deductible. This will make our ability to attract funds to further help people affected by cancer a great deal easier.

Keeping databases up to date

Kathy Smith and Barb Galvin are reviewing our databases of memberships and consumer representatives, to see if we can make them operate more effectively, especially when we are looking to invite members to become cancer consumer representatives. Bob Jansen is providing more expert advice - thanks Bob.

Please continue to send us your up to date email addresses for our over hundred trained reps, to info@cancervocies.org.au

CVN CONSUMER REPS IN ACTION

“Nothing about us without us!”

Overall Consumer Representation: We service a total of **140** committees of different types, and **68** nominated individual consumers sit on these committee for 51 different organisations. (This does not include the reviewing activities for organisations such as the Cancer Council NSW, NBOCC etc.)

Research Projects: There are 71 individual research projects within 21 organisations for which CVN provides consumer input.

CVN Reps help new Cancer Centres

We have recently been approached by three new Cancer Centres, some still being built, for advice about how they can best support the patient pathway, and what facilities cancer patients need. In the case of the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse at RPA, this follows extensive input by CVN reps during the design stage. The new Lifehouse magazine called 'Lifesupport', is a name recommended by CVN for the 'wellness centre' at Lifehouse. A notice about this magazine appears in this newsletter.

The other centres are the new Kinghorn Cancer Centre, a joint project between St Vincent's and the Garvan Institute, and the Cancer Care Centre at

Macquarie University Hospital. The latter generously supported the publication of 'A Decade of Success: Cancer Voices NSW 2001-2011'.

Next on our radar are the regional cancer centres, currently in design phase, all of which will benefit from consumer input from the beginning.

Consumer Advocacy Training

Welcome to new CVN 'graduate' members!

We warmly welcome those new 'graduates' who have joined Cancer Voices as a result of August training. This will be your first newsletter as members. Please let us know of issues you would like to raise with us. We have added you to the database of trained consumer reps and will offer you a role when suitable requests are made to us, based on the information you provided about your interest and experience.

CAT Courses for 2011/12 - See Noticeboard

Cancer Institute Consumer Day

This is in the planning phase, and we will advise you of dates as soon as they have been finalised. All CVN reps who work with the Cancer Institute NSW, and those who would like to, are welcome to join this one day opportunity to learn more about the role of the CINSW, and our role within that organisation.

Who are you Representing?

CVN operates on Best Practice Principles of Consumer Participation (see Position Statement on website). When we nominate you as a consumer representative, it means we have confidence that you will be able to present the broad view of people affected by cancer, not just your own individual view. You are taking a place on a committee from a cancer consumer perspective, ie representing the needs and interests of people affected by cancer. You are not expected to be offering an organisational view of Cancer Voices NSW, only the Chair or delegated office bearers are authorised to do that, and very occasionally.

AREA Cancer Services (ACS) REPORT

The Area Cancer Service Reps met by teleconference on 26 July, timed to brief the next CVN Executive Committee meeting, so that outcomes can be factored in. We are still waiting for confirmation that the eight Cancer Services Directors around the state will continue in their roles, and which Local Health Districts they will serve. It now seems likely that each of the 15 Local Hospital Districts will have a Cancer Services Director, probably on a part-time basis. We are hoping that well established links will be maintained.

When this information is public we will be able to call for renewed expressions of interest to work on our District Cancer Services Program. Let us know if you

are interested in participating in this two-monthly teleconference session by emailing us at any time.

Consumer Involvement in Research (CIR) Program

- Australian Cancer Trials Online www.aunstralianccnertrials.gov.au
Publication of Consumer Input Paper 'Consumer input into research: the Australian Cancer Trials website; Dear et al, Health Research Policy & Systems 2011 9:30 www.health-policy-systems.com/content/9/1/30. This paper records and discusses the role of CVN, and to a lesser extent the Cancer Aust Consumer Advisory Group in this study and website development. Sally Crossing was the consumer Investigator for the group of six authors.
 - Lowy Adult Cancer Centre: regular meetings with four CVN reps - John Newsom, Elisabeth Kochman, Jane Barrett and Sally Crossing
 - PRIME Consortium - Sally Crossing presented to the full PRIME Consortium meeting at Westmead Hospital on 12 August, and heard an update on the progress of the individualised medicine cancer research studies.
 - Garvan Breast Cancer Think Tank - 12 August, Melbourne. Elisabeth Kochman attended and represented CVN.
 - Gaps in Colorectal Research 23 August, Melbourne. Several CVN members participated in a prioritising forum, including Jane Cruickshank, John Newsom and Sally Crossing.
 - CTAG Report. A consumer friendly website based on the concept of Australian Cancer Trials Online is being investigated with CVN involvement.
 - National Cancer Research Plan. This is to commence with one or two consumers participating on the Steering Group, possibly one from CVN.
 - Consumers' Research Priorities. A paper discussing the ultimate priorities and gaps identified by consumers in 2009 has been submitted for publication. Authors are Carla Saunders & Sally Crossing.
 - MJA Letter to Editor re ACTO - Medical Journal of Australia 2011; 194:382, 383
 - Cancer Institute NSW: The CVN Chair attended Premier's Research Awards on 14 July.
 - Consumer Involvement in Research, a poster presentation at Consumers Reforming Health Conference on 19 & 20 July, 2011.
 - CVN Letter sent 26 Aug to all graduates of Consumer Research Training courses of 2008,2009,2010, inviting them to refresh their interest and their details for our match-making database

CVN ADVOCACY UPDATES

Palliative Care Campaign 2011 (continued from page 1)

Cancer Voices NSW called for:

- Immediate and direct provision of a level of funding to HammondCare, sufficient to enable them to restore delivery of community palliative care in the Northern Sydney area to meet present requirements.
- Funding of palliative care services throughout NSW to actually meet the true requirements of communities throughout NSW, which is isolated solely for this purpose, and not subsumed into general sub acute budgets of Local Health Districts.

The 10 August parliamentary Hansard and Minister's media release confirm that these recommendations will be addressed and effected. CVN is very pleased about this outcome, the result of a real team effort.

We thank our members for raising the issues in the beginning, largely through the Area Cancer Services Group since 2009, Kathy Smith for contributing her knowledge of petition-raising and local lobbying - honed during the Central Coast Public Radiotherapy Campaign, also highly successful, and Yvonne McMaster and her committed team in the Northern Sydney area who galvanised action there.

Excerpts from the media release by the Hon Jillian Skinner MP, NSW Minister for health, 10 August 2011

PALLIATIVE CARE FUNDS RESTORED

"Ms Skinner is committed to increasing palliative care services across the state

NSW Health will map current palliative care services against population needs; investigate population planning tools used in other jurisdictions to assist in future service planning; examine the current workforce and identify any gaps, and examine training and resources available to support volunteers, carers and health workers', Ms Skinner said.

'This is an exciting announcement because it again gives palliative care the importance it deserves in our community', she said

CVN notes that the commitment above reflects our own recommendations. (See our Position Statement on Palliative Care) at www.cancervoices.org.au which provided the basis of our briefings to politicians interested in the campaign and debate.

We have offered to assist NSW Health, by providing the consumer view (the majority of care patients have cancer) to carry out the Minister's policy and commitments. We will report to members on progress in the December newsletter.

Sally Crossing

Dear Sally

Many thanks for your help and the ongoing and persistent advocacy of Cancer Voices over many years. There were many forces that came together on Wednesday evening to produce such a wonderful outcome, and I know that Cancer Voices have been pounding away at this issue since 2009. So, many thanks.

Stewart James, CEO HammondCare

IPTAAS - Isolated Patients Travel & Accommodation Scheme

We have contacted NSW Health regarding participation in the new State Government's review of IPTAAS, promised prior to the election. CVN has proposed that it is essential to include informed consumers from the beginning of this review and have forwarded our current Position Statement on the reforms our members who need to travel for their cancer treatment want to see. We will report on progress in our December newsletter.

Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP) Need for CUP Consortium flagged at MOGA

Cancer of unknown primary (CUP) is definitely coming out of the shadows. Jane Barrett attended a roundtable discussion on CUP to start a dialogue about this cancer, organised by the Cancer Council NSW (CCNSW) during the Medical Oncology Group of Australia's Annual Scientific Meeting in August. There were about 20 attendees.

The meeting was chaired by Professor Martin Tattersall, who introduced the Cancer Council's Cancer of Unknown Primary Multimedia Cancer Network Grants Program looking into the support and information needs of people affected by CUP. Cancer of unknown primary is where the secondary tumour is found first and it is unclear where the primary, or main cancer, is or was. A CUP diagnosis means the primary has not been located.

There were presentations from Professor David Bowtell, and Peter MacCallum (Cancer Centre Peter Mac, Melbourne), on the molecular biology of CUP and his work developing a new genetic test. Elizabeth Tracey, (Cancer Institute NSW) spoke on the epidemiology of CUP, and A/Prof Penelope Schofield (also from Peter Mac), talked about research into psychosocial issues of people affected by CUP. Jane gave a personal perspective as a CUP survivor.

The key points of the discussion were the lack of research in all aspects of CUP:

- basic science
- clinical care, and
- psychosocial issues

There was a lot of energy and expertise in the room to tackle this most complex of cancers.

The key proposal from the discussion is to develop a CUP consortium to bring together people and organisations with an interest in CUP to stimulate and develop research.

This is a great outcome that will need to be driven by consumer advocacy. This is a call to action. If you have been affected by cancer of unknown primary, make your voice heard! Rather than be a lone voice you can join an advocacy group, CUP Action, to help lobby for this consortium and other CUP issues.

Contact: Jane Barrett

CUP Survivor and Advocate, Cancer Voices NSW
cupaction@gmail.com

New CUP booklet launched- a great resource

In Adelaide the Cancer Council NSW launched the new national publication, 'Understanding Cancer of Unknown Primary'. It is part of their series for people with cancer, their families and friends. Although not yet available in print you can access the booklet on their website under 'cancer type'.

http://www.cancercouncil.com.au/html/patientsfamiliesfriends/typesofcancer/cancer_of_unknown_primary/downloads/CUP_Cover+Booklet_3Aug.pdf

Recruitment for CCNSW Study on the needs of people affected by CUP - can you assist?

Have you been diagnosed with cancer of unknown primary, are a carer, family member of someone with this cancer or maybe you have cared for someone with this diagnosis who has died? If so, you may be interested in taking part in this study. The Cancer Council would very much like to hear from you.

Contact: Helen Gooden, Multimedia Cancer Support Networks Grant Program, Cancer Council NSW. Phone: 02 9334 1456 heleng@nswcc.org.au

PBS Deferrals Decision

CVN's submission regarding the Federal Government's decision to delay subsidising drugs approved by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee is now on the website of the Senate Inquiry into this matter. We have received thanks from Consumers Health Forum of Australia for our support of their direct action at the national level.

The Voices being heard

The activities below are listed to give an idea of our various involvements during the quarter. CVN's nominated consumer reps attended a number of other regular committees and research project meetings as well.

Submissions:

PBS Deferral Decisions - Senate Inquiry (See Senate website).

Briefings for Speakers in Palliative Care Debate
NSW Review of Health & Medical Research: survey response

Speaking:

“CAT” course: 19 & 20 August

PRIME Consortium, :12 August

Lowy Cancer Research Program, UNSW: 26 July

Major Meetings:

State-wide Palliative Care Improvement Program: 9 June

NSW Minister for Health: Palliative Care, 12 Aug

Palliative Care NSW: July

Meetings with MPs in the Northern Sydney area

Cancer Council NSW: CEO 14 June

Cancer Institute NSW : CanNET 15 June

Cancer Australia: CEO, 7 July

Prostate Cancer Foundation of Aust: CEO 21 July

Cancer Institute NSW: 2011 Consumer Training

Cancer Institute NSW: Clinical Services Advisory Committee 17 August

Cancer Voices Australia: regular meetings

Macquarie University Hospital CEO August

Events:

Cancer Institute NSW: Premier’s Research Awards, 14 July

Consumers Reforming Health Conference 19-20 July, Melbourne

Palliative Care Debate, NSW Parliament, 10 August

Cancer Council Reception at Government House, 10 August.

Joint Medicines Policy Conference, Canberra, 29-31 Aug

Re-opening of Nerringah Palliative Care Hospital, 16 Aug

Publications / Media:

A Decade of Success: Cancer Voices 2000-2010

ACTO Consumer Input paper

Media release 8 August - palliative care

MJA letter to the Editor re ACTO promotion

Lifeline Magazine - Jane Barrett’s and Barb Galvin’s stories

Cancer Institute NSW - Annual Report Clinical Service - Bev Noble’s story.

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT STATE LEVEL?

Cancer Council NSW

Cancer Directory website update

Cancer Directory is a new online web portal, managed and maintained by Cancer Council NSW (CCNSW) with funding from CCNSW and Cancer Institute NSW. It will be available for health professionals in September 2011 and launched publicly by November 2011 following internal testing.

The website will show health professionals and the general public at a glance what credible, high quality, cancer care printed, AV, and electronic cancer care resources are available in Australia, for use by the community. It will hold a comprehensive listing of trustworthy resources, and over 1500 resources are currently listed.

People will be able to search Cancer Directory for resources specific to all the key cancer types; developed specifically for women, men, children, adolescents, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups; and produced in any of the 53 different languages. Resources focussed on prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, psychosocial needs will also be available.

The Cancer Directory Project is overseen by an Advisory Committee that includes representatives from the cancer care sector, government, health services and Cancer Councils. The Advisory Committee has been set up by CCNSW to provide strategic advice on the Cancer Directory Project and to ensure the website is effective in providing resources that are accurate, current, relevant and published to a satisfactory standard.

(CVN Editor: While we welcome this resource, we sadly note no consumers on this Committee)

If you require more information please contact Janette Gay, Project Coordinator by email janetteg@nswcc.org.au

Australian patients name financial pressure as top cause of cancer

Australian patients have blamed stress about money and their mortgage above smoking, obesity, and family history as the number one reason for what caused their cancer. Cancer Council NSW conducted the research project as part of its Cancer, Lifestyle, and Evaluation of thank Cancer Voices NSW for originally suggesting a question about cancer causes be included in the questionnaire.

Of the 2,850 cancer patients in the survey, nearly half of those questioned had no idea what caused their cancer, and a quarter thought that the disease could not be prevented. The study also revealed a gulf in the opinions of cancer patients depending on whether or not their type of cancer had a well-known cause. Breast cancer patients were 60 per cent more likely to blame stress than lung cancer patients who understood the link to smoking.

‘Breast cancer patients were the most uncertain about what caused their cancer and when faced with no tangible explanation, many blamed stress from the financial pressures of modern living,’ said Associate Professor Freddy Sitas, lead study author from Cancer Council NSW’s research department.

‘Stress is linked to several health problems, but it does not cause cancer. My big concern is that if the

community is unsure about what causes the disease, people may not take the right lifestyle choices to prevent it. We know that about 30 per cent of cancers can be prevented by making some really simple lifestyle choices.'

The CLEAR study aims to compile the most comprehensive information to date on the lifestyle and genetic factors that influence cancer in the NSW community. We encourage CVN members to participate in the survey, if eligible, and to encourage your networks to join. For more information, visit www.clearstudy.org.au.

Cancer Voices NSW comments

What factors do cancer patients believe contributed to the development of their cancer?

This was a question put forward by Cancer Voices NSW as part of its participation in the CLEAR Study. CVN Newsletter readers may remember that you were invited to join this study a couple of years ago. We thought it an excellent opportunity to detail just what people with cancer attributed their disease to - especially as there are so many myths and overstated risk factors doing the rounds in our community.

The results made front page news (SMH 22 August) under the heading "Cancer patients in denial over poor lifestyle choices". The authors noted that "the role of psychosocial and genetic factors were overstated", including stress. Almost half the respondents indicated that they "don't know" what caused their cancer, which we think reflects the situation that the cause of many cancers is indeed unknown.

Cancer Voices NSW welcomes the paper and trusts that its findings will inform the authorities whose job is to accurately communicate cancer risks to the community. It appears that they have not been as successful as they may have hoped. The scary stories make the biggest imprint on our cognitive processes around "why me?"

We continue to strongly suggest that communication of risk be made in absolute terms, the way we non-researchers mostly compute percentage information, rather than the more dramatic relative risk terms we so often hear. And of course, we encourage researchers to continue to work on the real causes of our specific cancers, communicating their results in a meaningful way.

Research Investment Evaluations

Cancer Council NSW's Research Strategy team recently completed an evaluation of its External Research Investment 2006 - 2010. Over the past five years, in collaboration with CVN, CCNSW has delivered a formal process engaging consumers in external research funding decisions. The Consumer Participation in Research Program has evolved over the past five years, including the development of specific consumer review criteria and the training and convening of a consumer panel in the assessment of research applications on behalf of cancer consumers and the wider community.

Every competitive grant funded by CCNSW includes a consumer review component. Between 2006 and 2010 we have conducted 80 hours of consumer review training, and trained 57 consumers who have reviewed 239 grants.

Cancer Institute NSW

New Website

The Cancer Institute NSW has recently launched a new website for cancer professionals and patients. It is now one of the largest and most comprehensive sources of information on cancer in NSW.

New features include:

- A patient support section where cancer experts provide easy to understand explanations about cancer, different forms of treatment and clinical trials,
- The latest facts on cancer in NSW for patients and families,
- A new screening and prevention section featuring all public health campaigns developed by the Cancer Institute over the last decade,
- A rolling news feature with the latest developments in cancer and the latest events, and
- A categorised and systematic cancer publications library containing more than 3000 reports on cancer in NSW.

The Cancer Institute NSW welcomes feedback on the new site. It can be viewed at www.cancerinstitute.org.au

Professor Roger Reddell wins top research gong

CVN was delighted to attend the 2011 Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research hosted by the Cancer Institute NSW.

The event saw more than 250 cancer professionals, advocacy groups, researchers and Government leaders come together to celebrate the outstanding work of the State's research sector in lessening the impact of cancer in the community.

Minister for Health Jillian Skinner presented Professor Roger Reddell from the Children's Medical Research Institute with the award for Outstanding Cancer Researcher 2011 for his life's work into cellular immortalisation - the way cancer cells multiply in the body. Professor Reddell's ground breaking work is providing new information from which better treatments and models of care can be developed to improve the lives of people impacted by cancer.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NATIONALLY?

Promotion of Australian Cancer Trials website

www.australiancancertrials.gov.au

This consumer friendly website, which enables access to understandable information on cancer clinical trials, was initiated by CVN. It is now being considered as a model for wider use by the National Health & Medical Research Council and the Department of Industry Innovation Science & Research (DIISR), as a result of the Clinical Trials Action Group's recommendations mid year.

Promotion remains a challenge, and CVN is taking any opportunity that presents itself to spread the word about its existence.

For a full examination of our involvement in this important project, you can access the paper below via the internet link. This peer reviewed journal is "open access" and free on the internet. Sally Crossing is the Consumer investigator and co-author of the newly published paper.

Consumer input into research: the Australian Cancer Trials website; Dear et al, Health Research Policy & Systems 2011 9:30 www.health-policy-systems.com/content/9/1/30.

Sally also had a Letter to the Editor of Australia's leading 'Medical Journal of Australia' published in its 7 July, 2011 issue, titled "*Consumer friendly clinical trials info is here!*"

Cancer Australia

CVN made suggestions through a meeting with the CEO and a follow up letter, about how the newly (1 July 2011) amalgamated organisation might undertake best practice cancer consumer engagement - both previous organisations had quite different processes.

We understand that the framework, whose development a number of CVN members helped shape, is ready for publication. This should be a considerable help to those organisations wanting to engage with cancer consumers for their advice and input, but who are unsure how to go about it. See www.canceraustralia.gov.au

Cancer Australia has provided a grant to the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) to develop a Consumer Engagement Policy for its Clinical Oncology Groups, which include consumers, some of whom are CVN members. We have expressed interest in participating in the development of this policy as it may become more broadly applicable.

Cancer Voices Australia

Following Kathy Smith's resignation from the CVA Board, as a result of her concerns about its lack of financial reporting to the Office of Fair Trading (now resolved), Bev Noble has kindly consented to be our nominee. She attended a face to face meeting in Melbourne **15 July**.

BITS & PIECES

Minister announces Seven Research Hubs

'Cancer patients will be able to access the latest advances in cancer control sooner as part of an exciting new research funding program' announced by Health and Medical Research Minister Jillian Skinner recently.

Minister Skinner announced that the NSW Government, through the Cancer Institute NSW will invest more than \$30 million into seven new **Translational Cancer Research Hubs** that will be at the forefront of cancer control in NSW over the next decade.

The big, resource intensive facilities are home to the latest state-of-the-art research equipment and each centre will be required to share their knowledge, resources and technology to consolidate research efforts across NSW, and ensure we are all working towards improving common cancer outcomes.

The **Translational Cancer Research Program** will strengthen the links between doctors and specialists at the frontline of cancer treatment and our best researchers.

This will allow doctors and specialists who are trialling new advances in treatment and care feed back to researchers about each new process is benefiting patients, and how future developments can be tweaked to see them become part of routine practice sooner.'

Position Statements

Information about major issues for people affected by cancer is updated annually. (See www.cancervoices.org.au).

Let us know if you have an issue that needs attention, or which you feel would be a suitable topic for a CVN Position Statement. Published in this newsletter and later on the website, they are useful for stakeholders and our own members to see the current thinking around specific issues which concern or interest people affected by cancer.

THANKS

Cancer Voices NSW greatly appreciates the assistance given by the Cancer Council NSW in the printing and posting of the Cancer Voices Newsletter.

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