

POSITION STATEMENT

Relationships with the Pharmaceutical Industry

Issue

Recognising the important role of the pharmaceutical industry in cancer treatment, Cancer Voices NSW has developed this policy regarding its relationships with the pharmaceutical industry. We see this as supporting our credibility when engaging with all stakeholders in the cancer world, particularly those which make decisions about approving and subsidising cancer drugs, other treatments and medical devices.

Present Position

This policy has been considered in view of that of the Consumers Health Forum of Australia and other health consumer groups with similar, mainly advocacy interests, including Cancer Voices Australia. It was decided that while many of our situations are indeed similar, not all are, and that we should publish our own as a clarification.

Relationships with Pharmaceutical Industry Policy:

- ◇ CVN is committed to total transparency in its relationships with pharmaceutical companies.
- ◇ CVN will not endorse individual pharmaceutical cancer products
- ◇ CVN will not endorse or develop a special relationship with an individual pharmaceutical company, but will engage with the pharmaceutical industry association, Medicines Australia.
- ◇ CVN may review pharmaceutical company information/ documentation about cancer drugs to ensure appropriateness for patient needs.
- ◇ CVN will maintain a register of involvement with pharmaceutical companies which is available to all members and the cancer community.
- ◇ CVN Executive Committee members may meet with representatives of pharmaceutical companies, provide relevant information about the consumer interest and gather industry information about cancer drugs for our advocacy purposes.
- ◇ CVN will not include any links from our website to pharmaceutical companies, or display any pharma company logos on our website or at our events.
- ◇ CVN will not provide any input or support to a pharmaceutical company media release.
- ◇ CVN will not accept funds from pharmaceutical companies for its core operations, but may accept “arm’s length” funding via Medicines Australia, to attend industry sponsored events when in the interests of people affected by cancer. .
- ◇ CVN’s logo and promotional information cannot be used by any pharmaceutical company to promote a product or product information
- ◇ This policy to be published in the CVN Newsletter and on our website

Reviewed Feb 2009 – April 2014