

21 February 2011

Ms Julie Dennett
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional affairs

**Inquiry into Patent Amendment (Human Genes and Biological Materials Bill)
2010**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this parliamentary inquiry.

Cancer Voices Australia (CVA) is the national consumer organisation representing Australians affected by cancer. It aims to ensure the voices of people affected by cancer are heard at a national level.

CVA strongly supports the submission from Cancer Voices New South Wales, a member organisation. They have addressed the issues considered paramount to cancer patients namely:

- Ownership of genes
- High risk families and access to affordable genetic testing
- Access to medical and genetic research

As you would be aware, CVA has challenged the legal validity of the BrCa1 patent and this matter is currently before the Federal Court. This further endorses our commitment in supporting the important issues addressed in the Private Member's Bill.

CVA looks forward to a positive outcome in this matter.

Yours sincerely



John Stubbs
Executive Officer