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Inquiry into Skin Cancer
House of Representatives Health Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Inquiry into Skin Cancer

Cancer Voices Australia wishes to make a very brief submission to this Inquiry. We warmly welcome the intention to investigate the awareness (individual and professional), early diagnosis and management of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers with a view to identifying strategies and options for improvements.

Cancer Voices Australia is the independent, volunteer voice of people affected by cancer, working to improve the cancer experience for Australians, their families and friends. We are active in the areas around diagnosis, information, treatment, research, support, care, survivorship and policy. To achieve this we work with decision-makers, ensuring the patient perspective is heard. Cancer Voices has led the cancer consumer movement in Australia since 2000.

For responses regarding major specific cancers, our policy is to consult with members of our cancer consumer group network. For this Inquiry, Cancer Voices Australia asks that its full support for the Submission of **Melanoma Patients Australia**, which played an active role in the Skin Cancer Roundtable held in June 2013, be formally noted.

We particularly wish the Inquiry to note the need for more comprehensive national cancer data collection, especially to address the gap in data about disease stage, recurrence and development of metastases. This will inform policy makers, service planners and researchers of the full impact of cancers like melanoma.

We welcome the extended date for submissions. Please note our interest in all Inquiries which deal with any aspect of cancer (notice of this one reached us after its first closing date).

Thankyou for the opportunity to provide input to this important Inquiry into a cancer which affects the lives of so many Australians.

Yours sincerely

Sally Crossing AM
Executive Committee

24 March 2014

