

Cancer Voices Australia

Cancer Voices Australia is the independent 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.

Objectives

- To promote the fundamental rights of Australians affected by cancer
- To effect improvements in cancer treatment, care and support by contributing the perspective of people affected by cancer to national cancer policy
- To provide a forum for member organisations to network and contribute to national activities.

We will do this by:

- Identifying and advocating on issues of interest to people affected by cancer
- Enabling the voices of consumers to be heard, by nominating and supporting trained consumer representatives at a national level
- Ensuring the participation of consumer representatives in the development, management and evaluation of cancer programs and services and decisions about the direction of cancer research.
- Increasing the number and diversity of people who have a voice
- Contributing to national policy by making submissions, participating in hearings, conferences and meetings, and seeking opportunities to influence and collaborate with government and cancer organisations
- Encouraging member organisations to exchange information and ideas to contribute to national activities and to enhance their own advocacy efforts
- Promoting a balanced public awareness and understanding of cancer and its impact on the community
- Promoting the value and benefits of consumer participation in the development of national cancer policy and programs and facilitating greater consumer involvement
- Encouraging research into areas of particular relevance to people affected by cancer.

Purpose and activities

Cancer Voices Australia will provide a national, independent “voice” for people affected by all types of cancer, linking and collaborating with established and emerging state/territory cancer advocacy groups, including Cancer Voices in NSW, ACT, WA, Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland. It will complement the activities of the national and state organisations representing people affected by a specific cancer.

CVA is committed to becoming a respected and integral part of the national cancer sector, working collaboratively with its member organisations, the Federal Government, Cancer Councils, the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia and other clinical bodies and key stakeholders to improve services and care for all people affected by cancer in Australia.

Governance and membership

Governing body

The CVA governing body will be comprised of representatives nominated by each Australian state and territory's Cancer Voices or similar peak cancer consumer advocacy organisation. Members of the governing body will be nominated, rather than elected. A Chair will be elected by the members of the governing body.

In order to include the existing cancer-specific consumer organisations and to seek consultation and collaboration wherever possible and beneficial, CVA plans to establish two reference groups:

- A reference group comprising national and state cancer-specific organisations to be consulted or referred to when issues relating only to a particular type of cancer arise.
- A medical and scientific reference group, comprising invited representatives of the various medical and scientific specialties relevant to cancer treatment and care who are willing to provide expert advice as required.

General membership

Full members

Full membership of Cancer Voices Australia is limited to cancer consumer organisations.

These member organisations should:

- be formal or informal independent associations led by consumers that aim to make a positive difference for people affected by cancer;
- fully support the objectives of CVA;
- have as members consumers or consumer organisations, who can be elected to their governing bodies
- not be party to a funding, sponsorship or partnership arrangement which the CVA governing body feels would compromise the organisation's independence or create a potential conflict of interest.

Full members are invited to contribute to the processes of developing CVA's organisational plan, policy statements, campaigns and other activities on behalf of people affected by cancer.

Associate members

Associate membership of CVA is open to:

- any individual affected by cancer or otherwise interested in supporting its objectives,
- any professional or other organisation that supports its objectives.

Steering Committee

The interim Steering Committee comprises 9 “consumers” (people affected by cancer) nominated by or representing state/territory Cancer Voices and other cancer consumer groups:

- Don Baumber, Prostate Cancer Foundation Support and Advocacy Committee
- Sally Crossing AM, Cancer Voices NSW
- Clive Deverall, Cancer Voices WA
- John Jongeling, Cancer Voices Tasmania
- Ian Roos, Cancer Voices Victoria (Chair)
- David Sandoe OAM, Prostate Cancer Foundation Support and Advocacy Committee
- Denis Strangman, Cancer Voices ACT
- John Stubbs, Leukaemia Foundation and CVNSW
- Leonie Young, Cancer Voices Queensland (Deputy Chair)

Steering Committee members are well-regarded and long-serving consumer representatives and/or advocates who are committed and working together to ensure CVA will be an effective and sustainable organisation.

Each member is a person affected by cancer, whether a cancer survivor, presently having treatment, or a current or widowed carer of a person with cancer. The Steering Committee is largely geographically representative; cancer type has not been a specific consideration although the current members have experienced a range of different cancers. Members represent the broad and diverse population of people affected by cancer, and have the capacity to engage with all stakeholders.

The Steering Committee is supported by a part-time Executive Officer, employed by The Cancer Council Australia.

Contact

Cancer Voices Australia
GPO Box 4708
Sydney NSW 2001
Tel: (02) 9036 3100
Fax: (02) 9036 3101
Email: cancervoices@cancer.org.au