

Cancer Voices Australia

c/-The Cancer Council Australia
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Dear Senators

My name is John Stubbs and I am the Executive Officer of Cancer Voices Australia. I am joined today by Sally Crossing AM, who is Chair of Cancer Voices NSW and a member of the Steering Committee of Cancer Voices Australia.

We thank you for allowing us to present to you today on this important issue.

Cancer Voices Australia exists to provide a voice for people affected by cancer.

Together Sally and I represent over 4500 cancer survivors from over 70 state and national consumer support groups.

I am a five year leukaemia survivor and Sally an 11 year breast cancer survivor, so we have a combined 16 years cancer 'experience'.

For many people, 16 years in the one area is a career.

And so it is for us, the need to get it right for cancer patients in Australia and to give many patients their 'voice' to be heard.

What is Cancer Voices Australia?

Cancer Voices Australia 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.

Objectives

- To promote the fundamental rights of Australians affected by cancer

- To effect improvements in cancer treatment, care and support by contributing to national cancer policy and program development, management and evaluation
- To promote the value and benefits of consumer participation in the development of national cancer policy and programs
- To provide a forum for member organisations to network and contribute to national activities

We provide a national, independent “voice” for people affected by all types of cancer, linking and collaborating with established state and territory cancer advocacy groups, including Cancer Voices in NSW, ACT, WA, Tas, Qld and Victoria.

CVA is a respected and integral part of the national cancer arena.

We are here today to support the approximately 4000 woman diagnosed each year with Gynaecological Cancers.

CVA identifies gaps in the following areas –

- The need for a National Co-ordinating Centre
- A lack of Psycho-social Support for male partners and carers
- A National Public Awareness and Prevention Campaign for all women
- Co-ordinated Federal Funding for Research Grants

Sally will continue.

Ends.

2 August 2006

