

DRAFT – July 2010

CANCER PATIENTS' CHARTER

Cancer Voices Australia (CVA) adopts the fundamental principles outlined in the – Charter of Paris against Cancer, signed by our Australian delegates on 4th February 2000; the Cancer Australia Statement; and the statements of other cancer advocacy and support organisations in this country.

Cancer patients –

- Are to be comprehensively informed and engaged in all phases of cancer treatment, research and policy making
- Stress the fundamental importance of their quality of life regardless of the stage of their disease and its prognosis
- Are respected with key human rights such as freedom of treatment choice and acceptance of the cultural, sexual and religious background, socio-economic status, home circumstances and geographical location of people affected by cancer
- Are entitled to optimal care, medical or otherwise, irrespective of stage or type of disease.
- Are entitled to open and collaborative communication between them and the various members of their treatment team
- Are entitled to a commitment to total patient well-being including not only the provision of optimal medical care but also to the provision of current information and psychosocial support.
- Are viewed as important strategic partners by medical, research, industry, and government policy-making groups.

This Charter is produced by recognised cancer advocates and is CVA's continued commitment to and endorsement of our rights as People Affected by Cancer.

CVA Board