



**Chair's Report**  
Annual General Meeting  
30 November 2014

**Cancer Voices SA mourns the passing of Ashleigh Moore OAM in February 2014.** Ashleigh was the founding Chair of Cancer Voices SA since 2007; his character and courage will continue to be an inspiration to us all, and his legacy will live on in all we strive to do.

Cancer Voices SA is '**raising a voice for those affected by cancer**' through **advocacy, involvement, awareness and information**. We are a statewide organization representing people with all types of cancer.

**Key achievements of July 2013- June 2014 have been:**

**Advocacy:**

'patients as teachers' in communication skills and understanding of consumer & carer perspectives

- a series of 13 tutorial sessions involving about 100 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical students at Adelaide Uni received very good feedback from students and will be continued in 2015. Sincere thanks to all presenters: Cath Caon, Agnes Vitry, Marie Ennis-O'Connor, Tony Hamdorf, Louise Bastian, Marcus Beresford, Tricia LaBella, Stephanie Newell, Ross Pagram, Steven Orr, Scott Nussey, Rosel & Andy Stokes, Rosemary Hague - organized and supported by Julie Marker.
- presentations to oncology nurses, pharmacy students, palliative & supportive care nurses – thanks Tony Hamdorf, Monique Bareham, Jon Degner, Tricia LaBella, Louise Bastian, Arthur & Kathie Seager.

**Survivorship:**

Working with Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer (FCIC) re: 2015 Survivorship Conference planning, other events, information and services for people affected by cancer.

**Advisory roles in cancer research:**

Various roles working with SA Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), Cancer Clinical Trial Groups (Psycho-Oncology, Primary Care Cancer Collaborative, GastroIntestinal Trials Groups) and Cancer Australia. Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer: Return to Work after Cancer project – with reps Monique Bareham, Chris Christensen (and Julie Marker).

Executive Team member Dr Agnes Vitry has significantly assisted us with her expert knowledge and clear thinking particularly around health advocacy, quality use of medicines, research and teaching.

**Action on issues:**

- CVSA survey and submission in response to the national Senate Inquiry into Skin Cancer.
- Patients access to pathology and imaging results – in collaboration with Health Consumer Alliance SA.
- Response to: [Consensus Statement for the Management of Laboratory Results that Pose High Risk to Patients and Require Timely Communication](#).

**State and National representation roles**

Cancer Voices SA contributes to state and national action through representation on committees and in research. Consumer rep roles on the SA Cancer Services Strategy Group: Julie Marker & Don Piro, and reps are on the following national committees: CareSearch Palliative Care Knowledge Network National Advisory Group, AIHW Cancer Data Monitoring Advisory Group.

Through [Cancer Voices Australia](http://www.cancervoicesaustralia.org) we are part of a national network of Cancer Voices [www.cancervoicesaustralia.org](http://www.cancervoicesaustralia.org) and the new Australian Cancer Consumer Network, as well as members of the Consumers Health Forum of Australia and Health Consumers Alliance SA.

### **Involvement & Awareness**

#### **Cycling**

Thank you to all cycling team members for your regular involvement and support. You continue to motivate, inspire and encourage people affected by cancer as well as the general community to participate in regular physical activity. The cycling team website is at [www.cvsacyclingteam.org.au](http://www.cvsacyclingteam.org.au);

Con Nakos has done a great job managing all activities related to the Cancer Voices SA cycling initiative. Thanks to Jim Vlahakis for maintaining the distribution of our distinctive cycling jerseys.

**Cycling team activities:** Group rides every Sunday morning, Participation in CycloSportif summer series, Tour Down Under, Ride Like Crazy, Grand Slam Series, and our annual Cancer Voices Challenge Ride which has now been held in October 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014. This free community event attracts ~100 participants each year. Special thanks to Con Nakos, Eric Browne, Julie Marker, Jim Vlahakis and Enzo Scardigno.

#### **Events and/or Cancer Voices PRESENTATIONS July 2013 – June 2014**

‘What matters to a Survivor’ Dr Agnes Vitry, World Pharmacy Conference, (Dublin) Sep 2013

- ← Consumer Forum - Clinical Oncology Society of Australia, organised in collaboration with Cancer Voices SA & Cancer Council SA: 10 Nov 2013, presentations by Cancer Voices SA members:
- ← -Consumer involvement and Cancer Voices SA - Julie Marker
- ← -My Cancer, My Gene - Chris Christensen
- ← -Looking after older people with cancer, a carer's perspective - Melissa Cadzow
- ← [Engage Community Forum](#), GI Cancer Institute, 10 Nov 2013
- ← -Survivorship presentation - Tony Hamdorf
- ← Clinical Oncology Society of Australia [Annual Conference](#) 12-14 Nov 2013:
- ← [Use and cost of chemotherapy in Australia 2000-2011](#) - Dr Agnes Vitry
- ← [Students perceptions of a consumer-led discussion group format to improve awareness of the patient perspective](#) - Dr Jo Thomas, Dr Agnes Vitry, Julie Marker
- ← Health Literacy and cancer: Noarlunga Cancer Information Forum (Speakers Dr Gwyn Jolley, Julie Marker, Gill Cancer Council SA)

#### **Information**

- Our websites [www.cancervoicessa.org.au](http://www.cancervoicessa.org.au), [www.cvsacyclingteam.org.au](http://www.cvsacyclingteam.org.au) and social media via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), are key modes of communication about our activities, updates and events.
- eBulletins provide updates on cancer-related information and report on Cancer Voices SA activities.

With the help of our Executive Team and members, we've achieved a huge amount for a 100% volunteer group! See more details at <http://www.cancervoicessa.org.au/about-us/achievements>

Thank you to all Cancer Voices SA members for your support and involvement.



Julie Marker, Chair, Cancer Voices SA 30 November 2014