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Update of CVSA activity

Greetings to Cancer Voices SA members and friends. We aim to keep you informed about our plans and activities via emails, general meetings and forums and this "Raising A Voice Bulletin".

The CVSA (CVSA) Executive Team has been developing a draft Strategic Plan and Work Plans based on feedback from a Cancer Consumers Survey conducted in late 2006 and issues raised at the 2007 Consumer Forum in November. There has also been progress on a number of key cancer consumer advocacy activities, and we have done a lot of work on our website for consumers (www.cancervoicessa.org.au).

With these foundations now settling into place we are in a better position to get on with the 'real work' of addressing our key objectives. To do this we need to expand our membership to truly represent the diversity of cancer experiences, and we need to hear from you.

We welcome your involvement and feedback to help, guide and advise us. Help us 'make a difference' towards achieving the best possible cancer treatment, care and support for South Australians.

Ashleigh Moore, Executive Chair, Cancer Voices SA.

Draft Strategic Plan (2008-10)

The Strategic Plan outlines the aims, objectives, key result areas and strategies that Cancer Voices SA will work towards over the next three years. The Draft Plan will soon be available to download at: <http://www.cancervoicessa.org/current-action.asp> and we encourage your feedback. The deadline for comments is 31st July 2008 by email to info@cancervoicessa.org.au or phone **08 8291 4343**.

Advocacy in action

In this issue of 'Raising A Voice' we briefly present the consumer advocacy role for Cancer Voices representatives, Ashleigh Moore and Juli Ferguson, on the Statewide Cancer Clinical Network (CCN).

The Cancer Clinical Network is a significant initiative of the SA Dept of Health
"to increase the level of clinician's involvement in the planning of health services, to find ways to better coordinate delivery of those services, to ensure better health outcomes for all South Australians and to ensure a strong, sustainable health workforce."

"Six key areas that will be considered by the Network are Cancer Prevention and Early Detection, Optimising Cancer Care,

Infrastructure Planning, Workforce Planning, Cancer Research and Cancer Information."

Consumer representatives are supporting patient-centred multi-disciplinary team care for cancer and raising awareness of the interest in complementary therapies. Find more information about the Cancer Clinical Network at the SA Dept of Health website:

<http://www.health.sa.gov.au/Default.aspx?tabid=213>

CVSA Website

Check out the Cancer Voices SA website at www.cancervoicessa.org.au/. Information about our aims and activities are provided in the 'About Us' and 'Get Involved' sections. Find links to some key support organisations and resources by searching both areas under the 'Find Resources' heading. Regular updates to latest news about cancer and research will soon be available by clicking on the 'Latest News' button. However in the mean time "Cancer In The News" summaries will continue to be sent out to members monthly.

There is still more work to be done on the website, and your ideas and feedback are welcome.

Membership and Promotion

Membership is **'free'** and open to cancer patients, their family, friends and carers. Join and receive our newsletters, updates, cancer news and notification of events. Provide your name and contact details by email to info@cancervoicessa.org.au or phone **08 8291 4343**.

Hearing from our members

We are interested to hear 'what was good' about your experience of cancer services (from the perspective of people with cancer, their family, friends, colleagues and supporters) as well as the things that were 'not so good' and could be improved.

We will be holding three general meetings per year as forums where members can meet, discuss and raise issues. A survey of members is another way to capture your thoughts and ideas. Cancer Voices will be visiting a number of rural centers in the coming months so watch out for the details.

National update from Cancer Voices Australia

Cancer Voices SA is a member of a national network of Cancer Voices, headed by Cancer Voices Australia. A national Cancer Voices Newsletter (Communique) will soon be available, detailing activities at the National level along with updates from each state. All members of Cancer Voices SA will be included on the mailing list to receive this.

To contact us

The Cancer Voices SA Executive Team welcome feedback on any of the items and issues raised in this newsletter. Contact us by email to info@cancervoicessa.org.au or phone **08 8291 4343**.