

Consumer Reference Group Member

Role Description



Position Title:	Consumer Reference Group Member, Personalised Cancer Care Program		
Reports To:	Direct	Co-Chairs, Consumer Reference Group	
	Indirect	Personalised Cancer Care Program Manager	
Position Type:	Consumer Representative	Location:	305 Grattan Street, Melbourne
End of Tenure Date:	This role will be in effect for the period of the VCCC Alliance 2021 – 2024 Strategic Program Plan		
Key Relationships:	Internal	Consumer Reference Group Co-Chairs Consumer Reference Group Members Personalised Cancer Care Program Manager Consumer Involvement Manager Communications and Project Assistant Head, Research Translation	
	External	Consumer and community groups VCCC Alliance member Community Advisory Committees (or equivalent) VCCC Alliance regional partners Relevant cancer control and advocacy organisations	

POSITION PURPOSE

The Consumer Reference Group Member is an integral role bringing the consumer perspective to provide advice to inform planned activities as part of the Personalised Cancer Care Program. Membership provides an opportunity to work together with other consumers through sharing lived experiences to inform improvements in genomic testing and equity of clinical access.

CONTEXT

Vision

The vision for the VCCC Alliance is to save lives through the integration of consumer-engaged cancer research, education and patient care. Founded in the holistic principles of the internationally recognised Comprehensive Cancer Centre model, the VCCC Alliance brings together ten research, academic, and clinical institutions to achieve what can only be done through statewide collaboration. The aim is to improve cancer outcomes in metropolitan and regional Victoria, and forge new approaches to cancer research, education, and patient care for all.

Operating Environment

The VCCC Alliance's multi-site, multidisciplinary model brings together the complementary strengths of Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne Health (including The Royal Melbourne Hospital), The University of Melbourne, The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, The Royal Women's Hospital, The Royal Children's Hospital, Western Health, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne (including St Vincent's Institute), Austin Health (including the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute and Austin Lifesciences) and Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

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BACKGROUND

An objective of the Personalised Cancer Care Program as part of the Strategic Program Plan 2021 - 2024 is to integrate genomics and/or immunological tests (molecular tests) into routine cancer care. An aim is to increase the number of patients that receive molecular testing and develop a roadmap for equitable access to these advancements to the community.

The Consumer Reference Group (CRG) consists of people connected with the broader community who have lived experience of cancer as a patient or person who has cared for someone with a cancer diagnosis. The CRG will provide advice to and support the work of the Personalised Cancer Care Program and will help to ensure that services are acceptable, appropriate, accessible, equitable and culturally safe. The purpose of the Consumer Reference Group is to draw on lived experience and, where appropriate, learning from research and available expertise to support planned research activities of the Personalised Cancer Care Program.

Members will lead, with guidance from the VCCC Alliance, the identification of research questions and conduct aspects of consumer-led research. Members will actively contribute to the analysis and interpretation of evidence along with public dissemination of findings.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Contribute to the Personalised Cancer Care Program through active participation in meetings, panels, consumer-led research, and preparation as required and following up on actions identified in a timely way.
- Foster networking, information sharing, two-way communications, and collaboration with relevant stakeholders from VCCC Alliance member organisations and relevant community groups.
- Provide non-binding advice on projects and initiatives developed in the Personalised Cancer Care Program.
- Assess the learning and development needs of the Consumer Reference Group.
- Advise on learning and development needs of the wider community.
- Assist in leading the identification of research questions for consumers on approaches for continuous improvement, and a focus on improving equity of access for molecular testing.
- Work with the Personalised Cancer Care Program Manager to ensure timelines and milestones associated with the program are met.
- To undertake all background reading, attend training or seminars and participate in other development activities to support full and active participation in this role

Other Requirements

- Assist with other tasks/projects as reasonably required.
- VCCC Alliance is a completely smoke free environment and expects all members to respect this policy to the fullest degree and with a very mindful approach.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Experience

- A personal experience of cancer as a patient, a person who has cared for another with cancer, or a family member or friend

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- Previous experience as a consumer representative/advocate in the cancer or health field or in a broader community context
- Previous involvement in committees, working parties or project teams

Skills

- Understanding of committee processes and key governance principles and practice
- Written and oral communication skills
- Problem-solving ability
- Networking capability and team-based skills

Qualifications

- No specific qualifications are required for this role. A diversity of professional backgrounds and education levels will be sought for the membership of the CRG
- Experience or understanding of genomic testing is highly desirable

The Person

- The following personal characteristics will be highly valued in this role:
 - Comfortable in taking initiative
 - Engaging with relevant community groups including forums and presentations, with the ability to lead discussion and encourage participation
 - Innovative and adaptable in the face of a broad and dynamic agenda
 - Willing to provide feedback, share knowledge and support others

EQUITY & INCLUSION:

The Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Alliance (VCCC Alliance) is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a workplace free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification, and victimisation.

The VCCC Alliance makes decisions on employment, engagement, promotion, and reward on the basis of merit. We are committed to all aspects of equal opportunity, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace and to providing all staff, contractors, appointees, volunteers and partners with a safe, respectful and rewarding environment. This commitment is set out in more detail in the VCCC Alliance Equal Opportunity Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy. All staff and contractors are required to comply with VCCC Alliance policies.

The VCCC Alliance values diversity and uses a range of methods to proactively seek to hear the voices of those who are under-represented in our consumer engagement work. This extends to diversity of cancer experiences, life experiences, age, culture, language, literacy, and area of residence.

TERM:

This role is for a term aligned to the VCCC Alliance Strategic Program Plan 2021 - 2024.

REVIEW PERIOD:

A six-month review period will be in place for each member.