

## Expression of Interest:

### VCCC Alliance Research & Education Lead for Head & Neck Cancer (for re-appointment or appointment)

*Honorary Appointment to 30 June 2029*

#### Honorary Opportunity

With the ongoing objective of enhancing relationships across the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC) Alliance members, this position is offered as an honorary opportunity from within a member organisation or Regional Partner site, to join the VCCC Alliance's expert Collaborative Leadership team.

#### About the Position

The Head & Neck Cancer Research and Education (R&E) Lead will champion aligned Head & Neck Cancer initiatives within the VCCC Alliance 2024-2029 Strategy. The Head & Neck Cancer R&E Lead will be an integral member of the Collaborative Leadership, a multidisciplinary and cross functional program incorporating 10 tumour stream and four cross cutting theme Research and Education (R&E) Leads, whose purpose is to facilitate the more rapid translation of research derived evidence into clinical care. They will assist in identifying and driving the ongoing development and implementation of work that contributes to achieving a range of targeted and strategic outcomes.

The Head & Neck Cancer R&E Lead will provide leadership and support to build capability and capacity of head & neck cancer initiatives in alignment with the VCCC Alliance 2024-2029 Strategy, the Victorian Cancer Plan and the Australian Cancer Plan. The role will also assist in the coordination and facilitation of activities that contribute to, build upon and collaborate with others to enable change across the cancer pathway.

Working with the guidance of the VCCC Alliance Director Strategic Programs and Director of Education, the Head & Neck Cancer R&E Lead will provide leadership, strategic direction and expert advice for the research and education/training aspects of the head & neck cancer stream of the broader VCCC Alliance R&E Lead program, with the goal of embedding the latest research and evidence more quickly into routine clinical practice. These roles will be supported by the VCCC Alliance research and education teams. Whilst the role is Honorary, there may be project specific funding allocated to the Head & Neck Cancer R&E Lead, e.g., if the Lead is a named investigator on a successful grant submission.

This role requires a pro-active and highly motivated individual with significant experience in developing and implementing complex head & neck cancer initiatives, and who can establish strong collaborative relationships with staff across the VCCC Alliance, within member organisations, and with external stakeholders.

Key objectives of the R&E Lead program are to:

- build leadership capability and networks for the Head & Neck Cancer tumour stream across the VCCC Alliance
- provide strategic leadership for the research, education and training aspects of the Head & Neck Cancer tumour stream

- facilitate sustainable connections that enable VCCC Alliance members to work together more effectively.

## Key Responsibilities

The Head & Neck Cancer R&E Lead will:

1. Champion collaboration across the VCCC Alliance and integrate research into clinical care through identified research and education initiatives
2. Provide expert advice on Head & Neck Cancer to contribute to the VCCC Alliance's strategic planning processes.
3. Continue to assess the Head & Neck Cancer landscape across the VCCC Alliance to gain an understanding of where the VCCC Alliance can add value to the head & neck cancer stream of the R&E Lead program, in the areas of research, education, leadership, knowledge translation and advocacy
4. Continue to build on the work of the previous R&E Lead in Head & Neck Cancer
5. Lead and advocate for the inclusion of consumers in the development and implementation of research and education activities
6. Act as an ambassador for the VCCC Alliance by:
  - increasing awareness of the role of the VCCC Alliance
  - identifying key opportunities for VCCC Alliance engagement
  - speaking publicly about VCCC Alliance programs in the media, scientific and clinical communities
  - contributing content to the VCCC Alliance newsletter and annual report as appropriate
  - other communication activities as and when appropriate
  - represent the VCCC Alliance on appropriate governance, government relations, grant and other appropriate opportunities
7. Provide input regarding the evaluation of the collaborative model of leadership to inform future planning, with the aim of continuing to drive impactful collaborative initiatives toward improved patient outcomes
8. Assist in the selection process, and provide mentorship and support to the Honorary Head & Neck Cancer R&E Deputy Lead role (there is an intention to appoint Honorary Deputy Leads in 2025 to ensure there is succession and future proofing of the program)
9. Participate in quarterly R&E Lead Program meetings with VCCC Alliance Executive and Program team
10. Facilitate sponsorship connections to suitable industry and pharmaceutical contacts

## Key Selection Criteria

Skills and Experience:

- A clinical and/or research position within one of the 10 VCCC Alliance member organisations or Regional Partner sites
- Informed understanding of and commitment to the vision of VCCC Alliance
- A track record of successful translational cancer research
- Significant research profile relative to opportunity in Head & Neck Cancer
- Proven experience in managing a collaborative enterprise/enabling collective input and impact

- Experience in developing and/or delivering post-graduate education/training for health and/or research professionals
- Demonstrated success in building research capability in a complex environment
- Demonstrated involvement in and support for evidence-based processes that improve patient outcomes

Qualifications:

- A relevant clinical qualification
- PhD or equivalent level of research experience
- A University affiliation

## Term & Time Commitment

Availability to commit to responsibilities of the role until 30 June 2029

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## About the VCCC Alliance

### Vision

To save lives through the integration of cancer research, education and patient care. Through innovation and collaboration, the VCCC Alliance will drive the next generation of improvements in prevention, detection, treatment and survivorship for all.

### Operating Environment

The [VCCC Alliance](#) is a powerful partnership of leading research, academic and clinical institutions working together to accelerate and amplify leading-edge cancer research, knowledge and expertise to benefit the Victorian community, supported by the Victorian Government.

The VCCC Alliance is founded on principles of collective impact which starts by defining a shared problem and working together with members, consumers and partners to codesign a shared vision to solve it. Strategic leadership is drawn from across the members and through innovative programs we work to solve problems; advance and share knowledge; educate and develop ways to accelerate the translation of research to practice.

Through innovation and collaboration, our alliance is leading integrated, research-driven, consumer-informed, cancer research, education and patient care.

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## Our Team

We are a tight-knit team of staff who form the backbone of the VCCC Alliance, working to facilitate the power of collective impact across the alliance and beyond. We are committed to working within the spirit of our organisational **Values: Patient-centred, For All, Bold, United, Respectful.**

Our VCCC Alliance team fosters and coordinates the expertise of the alliance, consumers and partners to encourage and enable collective effort to achieve more than any single entity or individual can achieve on their own.

At the VCCC Alliance, our team, along with multi-site, multi-disciplinary strategic leaders and consumers, are the backbone. We are dedicated to facilitating expertise across the cancer sector in the ambitious task of implementing sustainable systemic change to continuously improve equitable care and outcomes for cancer patients.

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## Equity and Inclusion

The 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, secondees, consumers, volunteers and partners with a safe, respectful and collegiate environment. This commitment is set out in more detail in the VCCC Alliance Equal Opportunity Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy and our Professional Conduct Policy.

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## Consumer Engagement

The VCCC Alliance has a strong commitment to integrating the expertise of a lived experience across all activities of the organisation. Cancer consumers are involved in planning our strategy, governance, program design and implementation and are supported by all staff to ensure *patient-centred* is our core value. We are dedicated to demonstrating quality consumer engagement practices that foster an environment of learning, respectful and productive working relationships.

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## Further Information

For further information about VCCC Alliance, please go to our website: [www.vcccallyance.org.au](http://www.vcccallyance.org.au)

For confidential enquiries regarding applying for this role, please contact

Head of Research, Dr Mark Buzza +61 407 553 501 and/or [mark.buzza@vcccallyance.org.au](mailto:mark.buzza@vcccallyance.org.au)

## To Express Your Interest

In the interests of finding a candidate with the most relevant expertise and experience, this position will be advertised both within and outside the VCCC Alliance member network. A secondment opportunity will be considered for candidates from VCCC Alliance members.

To express your interest in this role, please send your CV and covering letter outlining the key reasons for your interest in the role, specifically addressing the key selection criteria in this EOI document to Dr Mark Buzza [mark.buzza@vcccallyance.org.au](mailto:mark.buzza@vcccallyance.org.au), no later than 11pm Monday 26 August 2024.