

# Strategic Plan 2016–2019

## Cancer Council Victoria's Clinical Network



Established in 1976, Cancer Council Victoria's Clinical Network program is a peak multi-specialty oncology forum in Victoria, consisting of approximately 700 health professionals.

The Clinical Network has a broad clinical and institutional representation and provides a forum for open discussion of cancer management and clinical research issues.

The Clinical Network aims to improve the capacity of the Victorian oncology treatment sector through education, policy work, research, and by supporting best practice, evidence based cancer care, using the clinical voice to advocate for improvements in cancer.

### Current context and challenges

With a growing and ageing population, **annual cancer incidence is projected to increase 39% by 2025–2029** representing an additional 11,700 new cancer diagnoses and over 2,500 deaths per year compared with 2010–2014.<sup>i</sup>

**Five year survival for cancer patients is now 67%** (65% for regional Victorians, and 69% for metropolitan Victorians) for the period 2009–2014 an increase from 63% in 2004–2008.<sup>ii</sup> Growing incidence and improved survival mean there will be an increasing number of people living with and beyond cancer. To continue to provide effective cancer care in Victoria, the system will need to adapt to meet these demands.

Alongside these population changes, there is the progress towards '**personalised medicine**' tailored to the biology of individual cancer subtypes. At a service delivery level, ongoing developments include the establishment of metropolitan and regional cancer centres and the impacts of changes to the funding models for cancer care. Within this context the

**Clinical Network has evolved over the last 5 years.**

Clinicians interact with people when they are at their most vulnerable, whilst working in a complex health care system that can impact on the patient pathway and a patient's experience of their care.

Clinicians are important conduits that connect systems challenges in the delivery of cancer care, that are reflected at the individual patient level. Recognising the role of clinicians as advocates, the **Clinical Network has undertaken considered approaches to building the capacity of clinicians as advocates** and to ensuring the clinician voice informs policy and advocacy for improved cancer care.

**Clinical Network members** provide a state wide perspective on cancer care, contributing to policy and practice change, within a multidisciplinary setting, with the primary goal of improving patient outcomes.

### Mission:

To support the cancer clinical community to improve clinical care and patient outcomes for all Victorians affected by cancer.

### Principles:

Underpinning Clinical Network's work are the principles of:

- leadership, partnerships and collaboration
- evidence-based and multidisciplinary practice
- neutrality, independence and collegiality
- supporting equity in the delivery of cancer care.

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Strategic goal	Objectives	Key Activities
The promotion of best-practice, evidence-based cancer care.	To contribute to informing the evidence relating to cancer care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities for clinicians to come together for networking, information exchange, priority setting and action</li> <li>• Develop and/or inform treatment guidelines and resources that contribute to advances in clinical practice</li> <li>• Respond to policy and advocate for improvements across the continuum of cancer care</li> <li>• Provide education opportunities to members, the sector and key stakeholders</li> <li>• Undertake and/or promote participation in research that will inform the evidence relating cancer control and across the care continuum</li> <li>• Enhance and support the Clinical Network membership</li> <li>• Develop partnerships with key internal and external stakeholders</li> </ul>
	To have an active and engaged Clinical Network membership.	
To advocate for improvements in treatment and support.	To develop a shared advocacy agenda between cancer clinicians and CCV.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide CCV with independent, trusted, informed expertise in areas that span the continuum of cancer care</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for Clinical Network members to inform and participate in CCV advocacy, policy and program initiatives</li> <li>• Position Clinical Network as a key information source for government, key decision makers and CCV divisions</li> <li>• Develop and support key stakeholder relationships</li> <li>• Advocacy activities to influence policy and practice change. Provide training opportunities for members to contribute to advocacy and policy reform</li> <li>• Integrate an equity focus within initiatives that consider impacts for groups experiencing inequitable access to cancer care including: patients from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background, regional and rural patients, patients from low socioeconomic backgrounds, patients from non-English speaking and/or migrant backgrounds, and patients with a disability including pre-existing psychiatric illness</li> </ul>
	Ensure policy and program initiatives are informed by clinician expertise.	
To support and improve clinical trial activity within Victoria.	To increase awareness of cancer clinical trials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The provision of clinical trial capacity building initiatives including the Clinical Trials Management Scheme</li> <li>• The management and coordination of the Victorian Cancer Trials Link</li> <li>• Facilitating research that will contribute to improvements in the care of people with cancer</li> <li>• Promote patient participation in trials</li> </ul>
	To contribute to increasing opportunities for patient participation in clinical trials.	

**Principles:** leadership, partnerships and collaboration, evidence-based practice, multidisciplinary practice, neutrality, independence, collegiality, and supporting equity in the delivery of cancer care

The strategic direction of Clinical Network is overseen by the Clinical Network Executive Committee. The Executive is the primary conduit between Clinical Network members and the Cancer Council Victoria. The Executive membership consists of a cross section of cancer specialists; regional and metropolitan, which enables broad representation across the cancer clinical sector. Clinical Network members engage with program initiatives via a range of measures including advisory and special interest committees, discrete policy, advocacy and research projects, consultations, training and events.

The work of Clinical Network is overseen and supported by the Clinical Network’s Management Team based within Cancer Council Victoria, Strategy & Support Unit.

Clinical Network’s strategies align with the overarching CCV priorities of research, prevention, and support.

The Clinical Network strategic plan 2016-2020 is supported by the Clinical Network annual program and member engagement plans.