



## From the Director

The Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre, A Richard Pratt legacy (ACSC) is based at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (Peter Mac) in Parkville. It receives funding from The Pratt Foundation, the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Peter Mac.

The ACSC aims to improve outcomes for people affected by cancer. We work with clinical providers (medical, nursing, allied health) at Peter Mac and throughout Victoria as well as survivors and a range of organisations to enable improved care for survivors, their families and carers. The ACSC has a statewide role in the development of information and delivery of education for both survivors and health professionals. We also provide advice regarding models of care and opportunities for research in cancer survivorship.

For more information or to explore opportunities to collaborate, please email [contastacsc@petermac.org](mailto:contastacsc@petermac.org) or phone +61 3 8559 6220.

This Year in Review summarises highlights from 2016, our seventh full year.

*Associate Professor Michael Jefford*

## 2016 Year in Review

### 2016 overview

#### Move to Parkville

In June, the ACSC moved with Peter Mac's main site from East Melbourne to the \$1 billion purpose-built [Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre \(VCCC\)](#) building, located at the entrance to Melbourne's Parkville bio-medical precinct.

Coinciding with Survivorship Week, 30 survivors enjoyed a tour of the new building prior to the move. The event recognised and thanked survivors for their support of the ACSC and Peter Mac. Speakers at the event included Victorian Minister for Health, The Hon. Jill Hennessy MP; Peter Mac Chief Executive, Dale Fisher; and ACSC consumer representative, Meg Rynderman. Meg celebrated the improvements in outcomes for survivors, and shared the personal impact cancer has had on her.

The VCCC building was officially opened by the Premier of Victoria, the Hon. Daniel Andrews

MP, and the Federal Health Minister, the Hon. Sussan Ley MP on 17 July 2016. The day included a historic visit and address by the Vice President of the United States, the Hon. Joseph Biden Jr.

#### ACSC evaluation

In April, the ACSC commissioned an independent consultant to undertake an evaluation of the ACSC program. The evaluation explored the achievements of the ACSC since 2009 with a focus on performance against the 2013–16 strategic plan. Objectives of the evaluation were to identify key enablers of and barriers to success, and opportunities for the future strategy of the ACSC.

A broad range of stakeholders were consulted: locally, nationally and internationally.

The evaluation found that the ACSC has been successful in raising awareness around cancer survivorship and in delivering against its six broad strategic areas.



VCCC - Peter Mac's new home



The report made recommendations for the next ACSC strategic plan, including to:

- embed mechanisms that enable growth and optimise impact with emphasis on growing and diversifying funding,

leveraging existing resources, and using technology

- strengthen existing and develop new partnerships with consumers, carers, volunteers, primary care and community-based organisations and

groups with shared goals

- engage executive leaders at Peter Mac to enable delivery of world's best survivorship care.

A draft strategic plan for 2017–20 has been developed and will be finalised in early 2017.

## ACSC recognition

We were delighted to receive an award at Peter Mac's open annual general meeting, held in December 2016.

Presented annually, the Peter Mac Awards are peer nominated, and formally recognise the significant contributions and professional achievements of individuals and teams across Peter Mac.

The ACSC won in the category 'Excellence in cancer prevention and wellbeing' (team award):

*'This award recognises the achievements of our team members in expanding Peter Mac's expertise in the application of cancer prevention and wellness interventions, advancing cancer prevention and reducing health and social inequities in the Victorian and Australian communities.'*



## Trialling novel models of care

### Victorian Cancer Survivorship Program

Following the success of the 2011–14 round of Victorian Cancer Survivorship Program funding, the Victorian Government introduced a second phase of grants funding, for 2016–19.

Thirteen applications were successful. Seven primary and community health grants will support greater collaboration in the development of shared-care models between the acute and primary/community care sectors and will build capacity in the primary/community sector. Two general cancer survivorship grants will support innovative approaches to survivorship care and four capacity building grants will aim to build survivorship capacity, including through service redesign and resource development. Further information is available at: [www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/health-strategies/cancer-care/cancer-projects/victorian-cancer-survivorship-program](http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/health-strategies/cancer-care/cancer-projects/victorian-cancer-survivorship-program)

ACSC provides support to the VCSP by developing resources for survivors and

health professionals and by convening and facilitating a Community of Practice. The Community of Practice brings together staff working on VCSP-funded projects and many others committed to improved post-treatment care. Further information is available at: <https://www.petermac.org/services/support-services/australian-cancer-survivorship-centre/health-professionals/victorian>

### Implementing survivorship care plans at Peter Mac

In 2016, the ACSC focused on developing sustainable approaches to delivering survivorship care plans (SCPs). Providing SCPs at the end of treatment is not currently a standard clinical practice in Australia. The ACSC has piloted an electronic treatment summary at Peter Mac that is proving to be an efficient enabler of SCP delivery. We developed a systematic approach to identifying survivors for targeted information and support.

We also surveyed survivors' preferences for the format and content of an SCP and how

they might use an SCP. Over 200 surveys were returned. Almost all participants indicated they wanted an SCP at the end of treatment. Broadly, there was a stronger preference for treatment summary and follow-up information rather than wellbeing information. Almost all participants indicated a preference for a paper-based SCP. There was almost equal support for both a longer, more detailed SCP and a brief version. The principal purpose indicated for having a SCP was for personal use: as a record of cancer treatment and a reminder of things to look out for.

While similar to international findings, results suggest alternative ways of providing the information that survivors desire. The ACSC is using the results of this survey to inform services about how they can provide survivors with the information they prefer at end of treatment.

We have published findings. Further information is available at: [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28040988](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28040988).

## Educating health professionals

Early ACSC work indicated a need for more education for health professionals about survivorship care. International reports also underscore the need for education of healthcare providers. We provide a number of education and training activities. Here we highlight an example of our 2016 work.

### General practice clinical placement pilot project

In recognition of the critical role of general practice (primary care) in all stages of cancer care, the ACSC conducted a clinical placement pilot project in 2015, which brought together general practice and cancer specialist teams at Peter Mac to encourage bidirectional learning, strengthen links and build partnerships of care. General practitioners and primary health care nurses attended multidisciplinary team meetings and multidisciplinary clinics.

In 2016, the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services provided further funds to expand the placement program. Through an expression of interest process, the program was undertaken at Peter Mac, Austin Health, Western Health and the Royal Melbourne and Royal Women's hospitals. The program recruited 33 general practitioners,



*Attendees of the VCCC Survivorship Conference.*

16 general practice nurses and 29 oncology specialists.

The program was feasible across multiple sites and considered clinically and professionally valuable. General practitioners and nurses reported improved confidence (across all nine items) and improved knowledge (eight of nine items, one remaining the same). For oncology specialists, the majority of median knowledge and confidence scores were high

and remained unchanged.

ACSC developed a toolkit and videos to support the placement program and promote the role of primary care and shared care.

Further information is available at: [www.petermac.org/services/support-services/australian-cancer-survivorship-centre/health-professionals/resources](http://www.petermac.org/services/support-services/australian-cancer-survivorship-centre/health-professionals/resources).

## Information and education for survivors

We develop and deliver resources to meet the information and support needs of survivors, often in collaboration with other organisations. Here we highlight an example of our 2016 work.

### Information in other languages

In 2016, we were pleased to complete new information booklets about the post-treatment survivorship phase for people who speak Arabic, Vietnamese or Italian. Migrants with cancer report worse quality of life, higher levels of distress and greater levels of unmet needs, compared with English-speaking, Australian-born survivors. They also report a

need for culturally appropriate information written in their own language.

This work builds on our experience developing materials for people who speak Cantonese, Mandarin or Greek. The ACSC worked with the Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group, Department of Cancer Experiences Research at Peter Mac and Cancer Councils. Cancer Australia provided grant funding.

The booklets are being distributed nationally, including through state and territory Cancer Councils. We are pleased to have received additional funds from Cancer Australia to develop similar resources for people who

speak Hindi and Tagalog. We will also develop audio resources in English, Cantonese and Mandarin, a low-literacy written resource and a cancer glossary, to be available in 15 languages.

The new resources are available at: [www.petermac.org/services/cancer-information-resources/survivorship-life-after-treatment](http://www.petermac.org/services/cancer-information-resources/survivorship-life-after-treatment)



## Collaborating with and learning from others

In October, the ACSC played a major role in supporting the Inaugural VCCC Survivorship Conference. There was strong interest and engagement with the conference, with the conference selling out early. There were high-quality abstract submissions, including oral and poster presentations.

International speakers included Dr Kevin Oeffinger, Director of the Cancer Survivorship Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York; Professor Galina Velikova, Professor of Psychosocial and Medical Oncology, University of Leeds (United Kingdom); and Dr Julia Rowland, Director of the Office of Cancer Survivorship, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute (United States).

Presentation slides are available at: [www.victorianccc.org.au/resources/vccc-survivorship-and-victorian-psychology-research-conference/](http://www.victorianccc.org.au/resources/vccc-survivorship-and-victorian-psychology-research-conference/)

ACSC staff also presented work at national and international meetings:

- The Evolving Role of Primary Care in Cancer conference in Melbourne
- Cancer Nursing Society Australia conference in Cairns
- Cancer Survivorship Symposium in San Francisco
- Global Academic Programs (affiliated with The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center) Conference in São Paulo
- International Conference on Cancer Nursing in Hong Kong
- European Cancer Rehabilitation and Survivorship Symposium in Copenhagen.

We continue to learn from and collaborate with groups with shared objectives, including a number of consumer and professional organisations, cancer charities and government agencies.

## Published work

-  Evans J, Nolte L, Piper A, Simkiss L, Whitfield K, Jefford M. A clinical placement program for primary care professionals at a comprehensive cancer centre. *Aust Fam Physician*. 2016 Aug;45(8):606-10. [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27610453](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27610453)
-  Shaw T, Yates P, Moore B, Ash K, Nolte L, Krishnasamy M, Nicholson J, Rynderman M, Avery J, Jefford M. Development and evaluation of an online educational resource about cancer survivorship for cancer nurses: a mixed-methods sequential study. *Eur J Cancer Care (Engl)*. 2016 Oct 10. [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27726221](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27726221)
-  Kinnane N, Piper A, Jefford M. How will cancer survivors use survivorship care plans? *Acta Oncol*. 2016 Dec 31:1-7. [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28040988](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28040988).

## Planning ahead

Some of our work in 2017 will include:

- finalising our new strategic plan, to cover 2017–20
- developing new information materials for underserved cancer survivors including those who speak Hindi, Tagalog, Cantonese and Mandarin, and those with low health literacy
- expanding education and support programs for survivors, including programs in Mandarin and Cantonese
- continuing to roll out SCPs at Peter Mac and Parkville partner hospitals, including linking this work to electronic medical record systems
- expanding education and training opportunities for health professionals
- continuing to support improved survivorship care across Victoria
- planning for the next VCCC survivorship conference and sharing our work at other relevant meetings
- continuing to publish results from completed projects in peer-reviewed literature.

### Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre

A Richard Pratt Legacy



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[www.petermac.org/cancersurvivorship](http://www.petermac.org/cancersurvivorship)

