



MEDIA RELEASE

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Cancer Council, COSA welcome announcement of Cancer Australia advisory council

The advisory council of the Australian Government's new national cancer agency features a good mix of skills and experience and is set to make a valuable contribution to improved cancer control, the Chief Executive Officer of The Cancer Council Australia, Professor Alan Coates, said today.

Professor Coates said today's announcement of the advisory council membership by the Minister for Health and Ageing, Tony Abbott, was also an encouraging sign that the establishment of Cancer Australia was gathering momentum.

"The advisory council comprises some of Australia's leading cancer clinicians, healthcare administrators and experts in a number of other fields, who together can provide advice from a variety of perspectives on policy direction and governance," he said.

"National cancer control policy should be informed by professionals who care for people with cancer, by those who have a personal experience of cancer and by individuals with an expert understanding of public policy. The advisory council of Cancer Australia covers those areas at the highest level."

Professor Coates said he was particularly pleased to see a number of appointees linked with The Cancer Council Australia. These include his own successor, Professor Ian Olver, who takes over as Cancer Council CEO in May this year, and three representatives of The Cancer Council's clinical partner, the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia – Professors David Currow, Christobel Saunders and Sanchia Aranda.

"The Government should be applauded for formally seeking advice from fully independent bodies such as The Cancer Council and COSA, which exist exclusively to improve cancer control through support for the general community and for cancer care professionals," he said.

Professor Currow, the President of COSA and an appointee to the advisory council, said he looked forward to working with such a distinguished group towards continual improvement in cancer prevention, detection, treatment and care services in Australia.

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