

Terms of Reference

COSA Survivorship Group



Background

The Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) is Australia's peak multidisciplinary society for health professionals working in cancer research, treatment, survivorship, rehabilitation and palliative care.

The overarching mission of COSA is to improve the care of Australians affected by cancer. The objects of COSA as defined in the Constitution are:

- to promote excellence in the multidisciplinary care and research relating to cancer – from prevention, diagnosis and treatment to follow-up, palliation and survivorship;
- to encourage multidisciplinary collaboration of all professionals involved in cancer care and research;
- to foster and promote cancer research; and
- to support the professional development and educational needs of cancer health professionals in the furtherance of the above objects

COSA members with a common interest in a discipline, disease type, or area of need form groups to discuss issues and develop solutions to shared problems in cancer care. COSA Groups provide an opportunity for COSA members to be actively involved with important issues. COSA Council approves the formation of each Group providing it aligns with the interests and objectives of COSA.

Proceedings of COSA Groups

As defined in the COSA Constitution Clause 10.3:

- (a) Each COSA Group will have terms of reference approved by COSA Council. Such terms of reference will include agreed objectives, the establishment of an Executive Committee voted by the Group membership.
- (b) Groups and their activities will be based primarily on the objects of COSA
- (c) The Group Chair will sit on COSA Council during their elected term.
- (d) Groups may hold an annual general meeting, preferably at the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting.
- (e) Each Group is responsible to, and may be directed by the Board or their delegate as set out in accordance with the terms of reference.
- (f) Groups are required to submit to the COSA Board an annual plan outlining their planned activities and/or priorities, and support or resourcing requests from the COSA office.
- (g) An annual review of COSA Group activities and structure will be conducted as a part of good governance and Groups that are in abeyance may be dissolved at the discretion of the Board on the advice of Council.
- (h) COSA Council may disband a Group if the registered membership falls below thirty (30) COSA Individual Members.

1. COSA Survivorship Group

COSA members formed the Survivorship Group in November 2012.

The COSA Survivorship Group adopts a broad and inclusive definition of cancer survivorship, encompassing the physical, psychological, financial, social, and spiritual well-being of all individuals affected by cancer (i.e. cancer survivors and caregivers) from the time of diagnosis, through active treatment, long-term survivorship, and end-of-life. Survivorship care includes the management of treatment side effects, health promotion, surveillance for recurrence, support for physical and psychosocial needs, and quality of life considerations. This definition also acknowledges the distinct and ongoing needs of people living with advanced, metastatic, or treatable but not curable cancers, for whom survivorship involves managing cancer as a chronic or life-limiting condition.

While survivorship care has traditionally focused on the post-treatment phase, the Group aims to shift the focus upstream, recognising that survivorship begins at diagnosis and requires integration across the entire cancer care continuum. As a multidisciplinary platform, the COSA Survivorship Group supports collaboration, capacity-building, and leadership in survivorship care, research, and policy development across Australia.

1.1 Membership

Group membership is open to all current financial COSA members.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The overarching aim of the COSA Survivorship Group is to advance care, research, policy, and practice that seeks to improve outcomes for all Australians affected by cancer.

Survivorship Group objectives include:

1. Represent the needs of the broad range of health professionals involved in delivering care for cancer survivors and their caregivers.
2. Provide a forum for education, discussion, and exchange of information between health professionals involved in cancer survivorship care and research
3. Foster research and advocacy for and within cancer in cancer survivorship care
4. Promote and advocate for improved survivorship services and access to care for all Australians affected by cancer.
5. Engage stakeholders involved with cancer survivorship care to ensure a coordinated, national approach to survivorship care in Australia and to facilitate policy development to inform such care.

2. Governance

The Group will be led by a Chair who is supported by a Deputy Chair and Executive Committee. Refer to Appendix 1 for current Executive Committee membership.

The Survivorship Group Executive Committee will provide strategic direction and leadership to the Group including fostering engagement of Group members and providing oversight of key group activities.

2.1 Composition of Survivorship Group Executive Committee

Membership of the COSA Survivorship Group Executive Committee will comprise:

- At least 6 plus chair (minimum 7) and up to 12 members, all of which must be current financial COSA members and members of the Survivorship Group;
- It is desirable to have representation from a range of professional backgrounds and states or territories, reflecting COSA's national multidisciplinary membership and the disciplines which the Group represents;
- The Executive Committee may co-opt individuals as required to assist on specific issues or projects.

2.2 Appointment and Term of the Executive Committee Chair and Deputy Chair

When required, the COSA Chief Executive Officer, acting upon the direction of the Group Chair, will conduct an election for the position of Chair and Deputy Chair by calling for nominations from the Group membership.

The Chair and Deputy Chair will hold office for an initial term of two years and be eligible for re-appointment for a further two-year term if no objection from the Executive Committee.

The Chair and Deputy Chair may be eligible for a third term, but other Group members may also be invited to nominate at this time.

At the end of the Chair's term, the Deputy Chair may be appointed to the Chair role if there is no objection from Executive Committee members.

Single nominations for a position will be appointed automatically if there is no objection from Executive Committee members.

In the event of there being more than one nomination for the Chair roles, the Chief Executive Officer shall conduct a confidential ballot at which all Survivorship Group members may vote.

In the event of no nominations, the COSA Council may appoint a Chair and Deputy Chair.

2.3 Appointment and Term of Executive Committee members

Each Executive Committee member will hold office for two years and be eligible for re-appointment for a further two years, or a tenure determined appropriate by the Executive Committee.

The Chair will ensure rolling membership renewal of the Executive, to ensure continuity is maintained in leadership while bringing new experience to the Committee.

Expressions of interest will be sought from Survivorship Group members as required to fill Executive Committee roles. The Executive will reach agreement on the appointment of new members, ensuring the Committee's overall composition represents a broad range of disciplines and geographic areas, and includes members whose expertise aligns with the Group's strategic priorities and plans and who will bring a combination of skills, experience,

and expertise to Committee discussions. If the Executive are unable to reach agreement on the selection of new Committee members, then an election will be held by the Chief Executive Officer amongst the Survivorship Group membership.

2.4 Appointment and term of co-opted Committee members

When required, the Executive Committee may co-opt individuals to assist on specific issues or projects. Each co-opted Committee member may hold this position for two years and be eligible for re-appointment for a further two years, or a tenure determined appropriate by the Executive Committee, ensuring continuity is maintained in project activity while providing opportunities for other members to engage with Group activities. Co-opted Committee members may be invited to join Executive Committee meetings but will not be included in the quorum for decision making.

2.5 Executive Committee Support and Secretariat

The COSA Project Manager will act as secretary of the Committee, facilitate scheduling of meetings, and ensure the minutes of all meetings are recorded.

The Executive Committee will meet at least twice a year, either face-to-face if feasible, and via video or teleconference at other times. The Executive will endeavour to arrange a face-to-face Group meeting at the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM). Executive business may also be discussed and agreed by e-mail as required.

2.6 Quorum

A quorum will consist of half of the Executive Committee membership plus one (1), not including the COSA Project Manager.

If a quorum is not present, that meeting will lapse but remaining members may agree to discuss all business informally, with a summary of meeting notes recorded by the COSA Project Manager for information.

2.7 Agenda

Two weeks prior to a planned meeting, the COSA Project Manager will remind the Executive Committee of the meeting date and time and invite additional contributions to the agenda. Members should submit any items for inclusion on the agenda to both the Chair and Project Manager at least seven working days before the meeting. The Project Manager will circulate the agenda and supporting documentation five working days before the meeting. Urgent matters may be raised as "Other Business" at the meeting if time permits.

2.8 Minutes

Minutes of all Executive Committee meetings will be prepared by the COSA Project Manager, and approved by the Chair, prior to circulation to Committee members.

Draft minutes will be circulated to the Executive Committee within 10 working days of the meeting for comment. Written comments will be provided via email to the Chair and COSA Project Manager.

Draft minutes will be ratified at the next meeting.

All meeting minutes will be made available to COSA Council on request.

If approved by the Executive Committee, meeting minutes may be available in the members' area of the COSA website.

2.9 Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

All Executive Committee business remains confidential unless otherwise advised by the Chair. The Chair will remind Executive Committee members to disclose any conflicts of interest at the start of each meeting.

2.10 Reporting

The Executive Committee reports to the COSA Council via the Chair. The Chair will sit on COSA Council during their term, and report on behalf of the Executive Committee as required. Regular reports will be provided by the Chair and Deputy Chair for inclusion in the Marryalyan and Annual Report. Annual progress of Group activity will be reported through COSA's annual Group planning process.

Other reports may be requested at the discretion of the COSA President or Chief Executive Officer.

3. Working Groups

The Executive Committee may appoint Working Groups to deal with specific issues as needed. These Working Groups must report to the main Executive Committee and adhere to these terms of reference. A Working Group Chair may be nominated by the Executive Committee, and will be responsible for the formation and operation of the Working Group. Working Group members may be appointed based on their known areas of expertise which are relevant to Working Group deliberations, or expressions of interest may be sought from the Group membership if required. A Working Group Chair may be co-opted to a role on the Executive Committee but if they are not already an Executive Committee member then they will not be included in the quorum for decision making. Working Group members may be asked to sign confidentiality and conflict of interest statements relevant to the issues under consideration.

4. Review

All members agree to adhere to these terms of reference and the supporting documents listed at item 6.

The terms of reference will be reviewed by the Executive Committee every two years or as required.

5. Terms of Reference Approval History

Approved by Executive Committee: 23 July 2025 (current version)

21 July 2021

22 October 2018

27 June 2016

Approved by COSA Council:

1 August 2025 (current version)

6 August 2021

12 November 2018

19 August 2016

6. Supporting Documents

COSA Constitution

COSA Board and Committees Code of Conduct

Appendix 1

Survivorship Group Executive Committee

Name	Institution, State
Nicolas Hart (Chair)	University of Technology Sydney, NSW
Kate Webber (Deputy Chair)	Monash Health/Monash University, VIC
Ashfaq Chauhan	Australian Institute of Health Innovation, Macquarie University, NSW
Darren Haywood	University of Technology Sydney, VIC-based
Vanessa Johnston	Cancer Council NSW
Carolyn Mazariego	University of New South Wales/SPHERE, NSW/ Survivorship Policy & Implementation working group Chair
Carmel O’Kane	Wimmera Cancer Centre/Grampians Health Horsham, VIC
Monica Tang	Prince of Wales Hospital, NSW
Lebogang Thomy	Princess Alexandra Hospital QLD/ Flinders University
Thomas Walwyn	Royal Hobart Hospital, TAS
Anna Ugalde	Deakin University, VIC

Co-opted members of the Executive Committee

Role	Name	Institution, State
Survivorship eNews Co-editors	Md Mijanur Rahman	Collaboration for Cancer Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CCORE), The Ingham Institute UNSW
	Carla Thamm	Flinders University SA/Metro South Hospital and Health Service QLD
Financial Toxicity working group Co-Chair	Megan Varlow	Cancer Institute NSW
PRO working group Chair	Bogda Koczwara	Australian Research Centre for Cancer Survivorship NSW

Membership Current November 2025