



## A SHARED VISION: EQUITY FOR ALL

Creating sustainable consumer partnerships for change in cancer control

Monday 9 December 2024, 10.00am–12.00pm

The Forum is dedicated to advancing equity by prioritising direct consumer involvement, engaging diverse communities, and building partnerships. Everyone has a role, and all perspectives are required to drive change in cancer control. Participants will explore how small, intentional actions can create greater inclusive practice.

### Program

Time	Item	Topic	Speakers
10.00am	Welcome		Event Chair: Melissa Le Mesurier, Chair, Cancer Consumer Advisory Committee, VCCC Alliance
10.15am	Executive support		Prof Grant McArthur AO, CEO VCCC Alliance David Rosaia, Chief Operating Officer/Deputy CEO, Bendigo Health Cheryl Martin, Strategic Manager, LMICS
10.40am	Showcase Equity for All		Moderator: Dr Sam Harris, Medical Oncologist, Bendigo Regional Cancer Centre, Regional Oncology Lead VCCC Alliance
	Consumer-led virtual tour		Tanya Smith and Melissa Loorham Bendigo Regional Cancer Centre
	Cancer support for people of refugee background and beyond		Bwe Ku Say and Lisa Carson Bendigo Community Health Service, LMICS and Bendigo Regional Cancer Centre
	Wanyarra Mulana One's Personal Journey		Kristy Puls and Gilbert Wanganeen Echuca Regional Health, VACCHO

Time	Item	Topic	Speakers
10.55am	Panel discussion	Pathways to Equity: Sustainable consumer partnerships in regional cancer control	
		Developing practical, sustainable approaches for inclusive practice	Panellists: Tanya Smith and Melissa Loorham Bwe Ku Say and Lisa Carson Kristy Puls and Gilbert Wanganeen
11.20am	Breakout session	<p><b>Building sustainable consumer partnerships and leading by example: Small actions, big impacts</b></p> <p>Groups to discuss practical steps to enhance equity and inclusion in their daily practices.</p> <p>Questions to promote discussion:</p> <p>1) What is one thing you have seen or would like to see in your daily practice to promote equity through consumer partnerships?</p> <p>2) What other actions can we each take? <i>Think from consumer and staff (organisation) perspectives. What helps build effective relationships over time?</i></p>	
11.50am	Concluding remarks		Melissa Le Mesurier
12.00pm	Networking and light lunch		



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Melissa Le Mesurier**

#### **Chair, Cancer Consumer Advisory Committee, VCCC Alliance**

Committee Chair Melissa Le Mesurier has a long-held passion for medical research. She was the founding Chair of the Royal Children's Hospital Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust (1999-2009), which has raised more than \$3m for research and funded about 20 clinical fellows. In 2017, Melissa received an unexpected diagnosis of bladder cancer, and following successful treatment (thanks to early detection and participation in a clinical trial), her commitment to make a difference for other patients only grew. She became involved with the Australian and New Zealand Urological and Prostate Cancer Trials Group (ANZUP) and still serves on their Consumer Advisory Panel.

### **Tanya Smith**

#### **Consumer Representative**

Tanya Smith is a past patient of the Bendigo Regional Cancer Centre. Since finishing treatment, she has been involved as a consumer representative with LMICS and the Cancer Centre for about five years. She is passionate about making sure patients and carers have meaningful input into improving cancer services, especially in regional Victoria. She aims to encourage clinicians and others to consider the whole patient – not just their physical health, but their mental and emotional health as they go through the cancer experience.

### **Melissa Loorham**

#### **Development Manager, Bendigo Regional Cancer Centre, Bendigo Health**

Melissa Loorham is the Development Manager at Bendigo Regional Cancer Centre. She led the creation of the Regional Cancer Services Plan 2023-2028 and oversees the five-year implementation. Melissa has 25 years' experience in the oncology in nursing roles, project management and as an influential change agent. She holds a Master of Cancer Sciences and is passionate about making a difference in rural and regional health services towards closing the gap on health inequities.

### **Bwe Ku Say**

#### **Refugee and Cultural Diversity Project Worker, Bendigo Community Health Services**

#### **Interpreter, Bendigo Health**

Bwe Ku Say is a Project Worker within the Refugee and Cultural Diversity Team at Bendigo Community Health Services where he works with the Karen community to build knowledge and confidence in a range of health topics, and support access to local services. He is currently working within the Refugee Cancer Project supporting community education sessions, resource development, and navigation support for patients with a cancer diagnosis. Bwe is also a much-loved member of the Bendigo Health interpreting team, where he works with patients across the hospital system.

## **Lisa Carson**

**Refugee Cancer Services Project Facilitator, Bendigo Community Health Services  
Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, Bendigo Health  
McGrath Breast Cancer Nurse Consultant**

Lisa Carson has worked as a clinical nurse in cancer services for 13 years, with roles spanning radiotherapy, chemotherapy and breast cancer nursing. She has joined the Refugee and Cultural Diversity team at Bendigo Community Health Services this year to be involved with the Refugee Cancer Project. She brings her clinical knowledge, understanding of services, and experience with patient trajectories to this role, helping to bridge the gap between communities of refugee background and cancer services.

## **Gilbert Wanganeen**

**Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer, Echuca Regional Health**

Gilbert Wanganeen is a proud Nharungga and Kokatha man, born in Wallaroo, South Australia. He moved to Echuca in 1985 and married Lee Atkinson, a Yorta Yorta woman. Together, they raised four children and have ten grandchildren. Gilbert currently works as an Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer - Emotional Wellbeing Worker at Echuca Regional Health, supporting staff and patients with cultural awareness and safety for our people whilst they are engaging with the health service. A passionate community member, he has served as a Social Emotional Wellbeing Worker for over 12 years. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with family, supporting his grandchildren's sports, and reflecting on his life in Echuca.

## **Kristy Puls**

**Health Promotion Officer, Echuca Regional Health**

Kristy Puls is a Health Promotion Officer in the Population Health team at Echuca Regional Health. Kristy has a nursing background now with a strong focus on prevention and health promotion. She has had the privilege of supporting various co-design projects, including Aboriginal Cultural Safety and Vaping initiatives with young people in Campaspe. Recently, Kristy has contributed to the, Wanyarra Mulana, One's Personal Journey in collaboration with VACCHO, working closely with the local community to create a resource *by Mob, for Mob*. The work reflects a commitment to culturally responsive, community-driven health promotion that empowers individuals, promotes better health outcomes and drives self-determination.



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