

MEDIA RELEASE



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Go away and count your blessings

Thanks to effective cancer organisations and treatment in Australia, there is a growing but largely ignored population of cancer survivors crying out for help.

The Cancer Council Australia CEO Professor Ian Olver says with the focus squarely on cancer research and services for those diagnosed with the disease, the needs of survivors are usually overlooked.

“For those who survive cancer, the prevailing attitude is often ‘Go away and count your blessings’, but there are all sorts of difficulties for survivors and those around them,” Prof Olver says.

“Cancer survivors often remain confused about their experience following treatment and unsure about what to expect and what to do next.”

Prof Olver says the Surviving Cancer in Rural and Regional Australia satellite symposium, broadcast nationally – including to Hobart and Launceston, is the first national forum targeting cancer survivors and their families.

“This is the first attempt to address some of the pressing issues of survivorship for those living in rural and regional Australia; people whose cancer journey is all the more difficult because of their isolation,” he says.

“This long overdue development, which is supported by The Cancer Council Australia, makes experts available on issues such as nutrition, intimacy and returning to work after treatment to survivors right across Australia for the very first time.”

The Cancer Council Tasmania is establishing Cancer Voices, a consumer forum to give voice to cancer survivors and those living with the disease. This is in recognition that consumers can often have more influence than charitable organisations on government.

For comment please call Glen Turner 0412 443 212

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