



NSW REGIONAL CANCER
RESEARCH NETWORK

Network Update

AT A GLANCE:

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- ARMS 2025 Conference Wrap-Up: Strengthening Research Culture and Impact
- Network Impact Evaluation Survey – have your say
- Share your ideas to help shape the NSW Cancer Plan
- Network funding opportunities just launched: Regional Open Access Publication Scheme & Conference Travel Grant Scheme for Regional Researchers.
- Webinar: Engaging consumers early to build genuine partnerships
- Cancer Nurses Society of Australia Congress 2026
- Recording: Cancer Consumer-led Research Program recording

• Join the Conversation on the NSWRCRN Open Forum

Have you checked out the Open Forum on the NSW Regional Cancer Research Network (the Network) member platform lately? It's a great place to connect with peers, share ideas and ask research-related questions.

Many of our funded researchers have posted fresh updates, covering project progress, preliminary results and implementation insights.

We'd love you to join the conversation by commenting, asking a question or starting a new thread. Whether you're after feedback, collaborators or inspiration, the Open Forum is a supportive space to learn from each other.

👉 [Log in](#) to the Network platform and visit the Open Forum to see what's new and add your voice to the discussion.

👤 **Not a member?** [Join here](#).

• ARMS 2025 Conference Wrap-Up: Strengthening Research Culture and Impact

By Dr Alex Smith and Dr Erin Fuller, Senior Research Partners, NSW Regional Cancer Research Network



Dr Alex Smith (left) and Dr Erin Fuller (above) presenting at ARMS 2025.

As [Senior Research Partners](#) with the NSW Regional Cancer Research Network, we're privileged to support clinicians, researchers and consumer partners across our Network's footprint with their translational cancer research. Together with Dr Allison Boyes, we focus on all facets of capacity building for our members.

Attending the **Australasian Research Management Society (ARMS) 2025 Conference** in Melbourne was a great chance for us to hear sector-wide perspectives on how research is enabled and supported in Australia. We both came away with practical insights on building research culture, strengthening partnerships and growing impact — all highly relevant to the work the Network is doing in regional cancer research.

During the conference, we joined sessions that explored what it really takes to enable great quality research with impact. A highlight was the University of Queensland team showing how success depends not just on great ideas, but also on strategic investment and the right enabling ecosystem. Another standout session was from the South Metropolitan Health Service in WA, sharing the highs and lows of transforming research culture in a health service setting — reminding us that focusing on people first, then processes, is what really shifts the dial.

We were also fortunate to present on the **NSWRCRN Senior Research Partner model**, generously funded by the Cancer Institute NSW through a Translational Cancer Research Capacity Building Grant, and it was encouraging to see so much interest and engagement. The thoughtful questions and feedback we received highlighted just how timely and relevant these types of roles are for supporting research and translation in regional settings.



There were also interesting panels opening up discussions on “third-space” professionals — those boundary-spanning roles that sit between research, clinical and industry worlds. The conversation about how these blended roles, like the Network's Senior Research Partners, support research and translation, bridge academic and professional spheres and facilitate capacity building felt very relevant to what we're doing in regional cancer research.

The conference underscored a truth we already know: research takes time and resources, and in busy (often clinical) settings that's never easy. This made it especially heartening to see over 800 research management professionals in one place, all committed to making research possible and impactful. That collective effort was a reminder that while the challenges are real, the support, momentum and innovation across the sector are strong.

Our big takeaway is that building sustainable cancer research capacity isn't a solo effort — it takes enabling roles, strong partnerships and a culture deliberately designed to turn research into impact.

Attendance at the ARMS 2025 Conference was supported by infrastructure funding from the HMRI Equity in Health and Wellbeing Research Program.


If you'd like advice or hands-on help from our **Senior Research Partners (SRPs)**, there are two ways to access support:

-  **One-off advice:** Request tailored guidance or feedback through our [Professional Research Support page](#).
-  **Support package:** Apply for a structured package of research support through the [Professional Research Support Grant \(PRSG\)](#).

HAVE YOUR SAY

- **NSW Regional Cancer Research Network Impact Evaluation Survey**

The Network's **Impact Evaluation Survey** has now been emailed to all members, with each group receiving its relevant link. (Funded recipients have received a separate link to a slightly longer version – please complete only the version you were sent.)

 **Have your say now (≤5 minutes)** – survey closes 11:59pm, **14 November 2025**.

 [Complete the survey now](#)

If you're a funded researcher and didn't receive your survey link, please contact Dr Kurtis Budden (HMRI Impact & Evaluation) at kurtis.budden@hmri.org.au.

- **Share your ideas to help shape the NSW Cancer Plan**

Public consultation is now open for the **sixth NSW Cancer Plan**, and the Cancer Institute NSW is inviting the community to share their views.

The Plan guides how NSW prevents cancer and supports people affected by cancer. They want to hear from:

- ➔ Health workers
- ➔ Researchers
- ➔ People who have cancer
- ➔ People who have had cancer
- ➔ Carers
- ➔ Community groups

 **Share your views and ideas** until 11:59pm, **2 November 2025**.

 [Have your say on the NSW Cancer Plan](#)

NETWORK FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Network is pleased to announce **two new schemes** designed to further support our members in sharing their research and connecting with peers across the cancer research community.

1. Regional Open Access Publication Scheme

Supports Network members to publish open-access, peer-reviewed cancer research by funding Article Processing Charges (APCs). The scheme prioritises work that builds regional research capacity, translates locally informed evidence into practice, and improves outcomes for people in regional, rural and remote NSW. Open access ensures results are freely available to clinicians, consumers and policymakers, increasing reach and impact across NSW and beyond.

 [Learn more about the Open Access Publication Scheme](#)

2. Conference Travel Grant Scheme for Regional Researchers

Helps Network members present accepted cancer research at recognised scientific or professional conferences in Australia and overseas. Funding removes cost barriers so presenters can share results, build collaborations, and bring back skills, networks and practical approaches that strengthen research capacity and improve cancer care in their communities.

Funding caps (AUD, ex GST):

- Domestic (travel within Australia): up to **\$1,500**
- International (travel outside Australia): up to **\$6,000**

Covers conference registration, transport, and accommodation only.

 [Learn more about the Conference Travel Grant Scheme for Regional Researchers](#)

Together, these new schemes aim to strengthen research capacity, collaboration, and visibility across our regional network.

 **Not a member?** [Join here](#).

TRAINING/SEMINAR AND EVENTS



• Engaging consumers early to build genuine partnerships


Overview

Consumer and community involvement (CCI) is increasingly recognised as essential for high-quality, impactful health research.


But how do you engage consumers early, and in ways that feel genuine and sustainable? Join our free webinar on **Engaging consumers early to build genuine partnerships** to find the answers.

The webinar - co-presented by 4 leading researchers with CCI expertise in health research - will explore:

- practical guidance on how and when to involve consumers
- tips for relationship building, managing expectations and fair compensation
- advice on common barriers and enablers.

 **When:** Thursday, 6 November 2025

 **Time:** 12 pm - 1 pm (AEDT)

 **Where:** Online (Zoom link will be provided prior to the conference)

Presenters

- Professor James St John - Griffith University
- Dr Kelsey Chapman - Griffith University
- Dr Zephania Tyack - Queensland University of Technology
- Lisa Anemaat - Metro North Health / The University of Queensland

 [Register your attendance](#)



- **Cancer Nurses Society of Australia**

17–19 June 2026 | Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre

Mark your calendar for the 2026 CNSA Congress in Perth. Join cancer nursing colleagues from across Australia for an inspiring program and valuable networking.

Planning note: CNSA advises that a draft program outline will be released shortly to help you plan the best travel options.

 [Learn more / event page](#)

**save
the
date
2026**

**The 2026 CNSA
Congress will
be held at Perth
Convention and
Exhibition Centre**

17-19 June 2026

- **Cancer Consumer-led Research Program**



Missed the webinar **Cancer Consumer-led Research Program**? Catch the session featuring expert lived experience panellists and led by **Pauline Ryan** (Program Manager) and **Dr Stacey Panozzo** (Program Consumer Liaison).

The webinar was very well received, with many attendees appreciating seeing people with lived experience leading the discussion.

 [Catch up on the recording](#)

CONNECT WITH US:



We acknowledge the many Traditional Custodians of Country throughout regional, rural and remote NSW and honour their Elders, families and descendants, past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs, and deep and continuing relationship with the land and waterways. We acknowledge that they are the proud survivors of more than two hundred years of dispossession.

The NSW Regional Cancer Research Network is funded by the [Cancer Institute NSW](#) through a Translational Cancer Research Capacity Building Grant and established through [NSW Regional Health Partners](#).