

Consumer Advisory Group Member Role Description

MPA is the only independent, national not for profit organisation in Australia that offers a national network of support and information to patients, their families, carers, and friends, about melanoma prevention, diagnosis, management and treatment. MPA is also one of the largest melanoma patient advocacy groups in Australia. Our vision is that no-one with melanoma walks alone.

Title:	Consumer Advisory Group Member
Reporting Direct:	Reports to the Chair/s
Reporting Indirect:	MPA CEO, MPA Board of Directors.
Hours:	Quarterly Meetings and other activities and events as required
Position Type	Non-staff member, Voluntary role.
Tenure Date	Ability to commit to a two-year tenure

1. PURPOSE OF ROLE

The purpose of the Melanoma Patients Australia Consumer Advisory Group is to provide a powerful voice for people affected by melanoma across Australia and help MPA determine key strategic priorities and an advocacy action plan.

Members of the Consumer Advisory Group will provide advice and feedback to MPA and help to advocate on a range of issues important to those affected by melanoma to enable MPA to influence policy changes that benefit the melanoma community.

2. MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES OF ROLE

As a Member of the Consumer Advisory Group your major responsibilities will include:

- To work collaboratively with the MPA-CAG Members to ensure that MPA best represents the interests, perspectives and needs of melanoma consumers.
- To identify and raise for consideration issues (i) impacting on consumers (ii) opportunities for advocacy/initiatives.
- To contribute to meeting discussions and decisions openly and respectfully, and in the spirit of consensus
- To respect confidentiality and submit the required signed Confidentiality Deed
- To recognise and declare any conflicts of interest, real or perceived, and sign, submit and update the Statement of Private or Other Professional Interests as required
- To participate in any MPA-CAG sub-committees or other MPA working groups as appropriate
- Represent MPA as required

3. CORE REQUIREMENTS

Experience

- Previous practical experience as a member of any other advocacy group or consumer advisory panel relating to cancer or other health issue
- Experience working on a committee and representing the interests and perspectives of consumers

Knowledge

- A demonstrated understanding of relevant consumer issues and opportunities – existing and emerging - relating to melanoma through personal experience
- An understanding of how diversity and individual differences (eg melanoma stage, location, cultural, social, gender, age) can impact on the cancer experience and access to treatment, support and services
- An understanding of how individual CAG members can best reflect the interests and broad perspectives of other melanoma consumers (i.e. an appreciation of the needs of groups and not just the individual)
- A demonstrated understanding of the role of consumer advocacy, especially as it will relate to the MPA-CAG
- An understanding of MPA's activities and Vision

Key Attributes

- An ability to communicate effectively on behalf of consumers
- A level of enthusiasm and energy evident
- A commitment to the organisation's core values of Trust, Respect, Empathy and Excellence.
- An ability to display initiative
- An ability to problem-solve and resolve issues creatively and respectfully

Commitment to Continuous Improvement

- Continually seeks ways to improve activities of the MPA-CAG

Relationships Management

- Ability to work collaboratively with MPA-CAG Members and MPA staff and volunteers
- Working with a spirit of consensus
- Acts in the best interests of MPA and the MPA-CAG
- Seeks and responds to enquiries/feedback to provide a suitable outcome.
- Builds new external links and contacts
- Promotes the organisation's image

This role is voluntary and meetings will usually be held via telephone or video conferencing.