



# MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Health and Ageing

## Tony Abbott MHR

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7 March 2006

ABB025/06

### **National cancer agency advisory council announced**

I am pleased to announce the new members of the advisory council of Cancer Australia.

They are:

- Professor Sanchia Aranda
- Professor James Bishop
- Professor David Currow
- The Hon John (Johnno) Johnson
- Dr Megan Keaney
- Mrs Janet McDonald
- The Hon Jocelyn Newman
- The Hon Meg Lees
- Professor Ian Olver
- Professor Christobel Saunders
- Dr Julie Thompson

The advisory council, chaired by Dr Bill Glasson, a former President of the Australian Medical Association, will support the CEO of Cancer Australia. The CEO position was recently advertised in the national press.

A total of \$13.7 million has been provided over five years by the Commonwealth Government to set up the new agency.

Cancer Australia will provide national leadership in cancer care. It will guide improvements in prevention, provide support to consumers and health professionals and make recommendations to the Commonwealth Government about cancer policy and priorities.

Cancer Australia is a key component of the Australian Government's *Strengthening Cancer Care* initiative, which will provide \$189.4 million over five years to 2008-09 to ensure better coordination of the national cancer effort. This is about more research funding for cancer care, better support for those living with cancer, strengthened palliative care services and better support for cancer professionals.

**Media contact: Kate Miranda, Office of Tony Abbott, 0417 425 227**

## Committee members

**Bill Glasson** – Former Federal President, Australian Medical Association; Director, MAP Superannuation Fund; Hospitaller (Ophthalmic Representative), St John Ambulance Australia Executive Board.

**Professor Sanchia Aranda** – Head, University of Melbourne School of Nursing; Director of Cancer Nursing Research, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

**Professor Christobel Saunders** - Professor of Surgical Oncology, QEII Medical Centre, University of Western Australia.

**Professor David Christopher Currow** - Professor of Palliative and Supportive Services, Flinders University; President, Clinical Oncology Society of Australia.

**Professor Ian Olver** - Professor of Cancer Care, Adelaide University; Clinical Director, Royal Adelaide Hospital Cancer Centre.

**Professor James Bishop** -Chief Cancer Officer for NSW; CEO, Cancer Institute NSW; Professor of Cancer Medicine, University of Sydney.

**Mrs Janet McDonald AO** – Chairman, National Breast Cancer Centre; Member, Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

**The Hon Jocelyn Margaret Newman AO** - Board Member, National Breast Cancer Centre; Board Member, Breast Cancer Network Australia.

**The Hon Meg Lees** - Senator for South Australia 1999-2005. Founder of Australian Progressive Alliance, formerly Australian Democrats; served as a member of many Senate committees including Community Affairs.

**The Hon John Richard Johnson** – Chairman, Catholic Press Pty Ltd; former Director, Prince Henry and Prince of Wales Hospital Group.

**Dr Julie Thompson** - General Practice Coordinator, National Breast Cancer Centre; Sessional General Practitioner, Breast Clinic, Freemasons Hospital, Melbourne.

**Dr Megan Keaney** - Major Claims Manager, United Medical Protection and Australasian Medical Insurance Limited; Board Member, National Breast Cancer Centre.