THE CANCER SURVIVORSHIP PROJECT

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MICHAEL JEFFORD,

DIRECTOR AUSTRALIAN CANCER SURVIVORSHIP CENTRE

My name is Michael Jefford, I’m the Director of the Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre. We did some work a couple of years ago asking about people’s comfort levels, their awareness of cancer survivorship. What we found in a broad range of health professionals, who might have been hospital based or community based, was that they felt that they wanted to know more about cancer survivorship. They felt that it was very relevant to their own practice, but they felt that they needed to know more.

And so we thought that we needed to be doing a range of strategies to improve awareness, to improve knowledge, to improve skills. And that’s been reinforced by international literature that talks about the need to provide this awareness raising and to provide a broad range of health professionals with more knowledge and skill.

So we hope from this project that people will have a greater awareness of the issues that survivors can experience, and hopefully some practical strategies about things that they can do straight away in their own practice. But also, I guess, that people are engaged with what are the things that we can do, shaping the system, so that we have a better system for survivors in 1, 2, 5, 10 years time.