WHY IS CANCER SURVIVORSHIP IMPORTANT?

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I think Survivorship Care in Australia is really one of the emerging areas of expertise for all cancer professionals, but I think particularly for nurses and allied health. It offers an opportunity as professionals to really be able to demonstrate the strength of multidisciplinary care, in terms of contributing to the best outcomes possible for people.

And so what I’d like to see for Survivorship Care in Australia is that we have a national strategy that recognises Survivorship Care as integral to the care of people, just as the conversations are about whether they have chemotherapy or surgery. That the issues of how we prepare people for survivorship is integral to that care planning and that treatment decision making.

I think we have done a lot of good things. We have a strong arm of research happening in diverse, we’ve connected areas of the country with strong groups. We have strong clinical dialogues.

One of the other opportunities that we have in Australia of course around survivorship, is the development of this online resource which is really a national repository around the best evidence that we currently have around how to care for people, but offers that information in a way that is practical and accessible for people. And I think as we think about what we aspire for cancer survivors in Australia, its that they have an equity of access to excellent advice, pragmatic sort of skill teaching that all people can use and can access to be able to make sure that they go onto live good healthy lives, for as long as that may be for them.