

SPOTLIGHT ON SMICS PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF PATIENT CARE

Tell us about yourself and how you came to be in your current role(s)?

I am a retired Health Professional. I retired in 2012. My most recent employed role was as Director of Allied Health in Subacute and Community, Monash Health. I am also a Cancer patient of both Monash Health and Peter MacCallum. I initially became involved with SMICS following a chance encounter with two SMICS staff in the coffee line at Moorabbin Hospital. I was looking for a coffee, but more happened!

What is your connection to SMICS?

I am a Consumer Advisor, a voluntary role commencing around 2012/2013. I have been involved through SMICS in several aspects of Cancer Services including Supportive Care, Cancer Research and Monash Partners Comprehensive Cancer Consortium (MPCCC). I also sit on the Victorian COVID-19 Cancer Taskforce through my Consumer Advisor Role at MPCCC.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your role(s)?

The opportunity to intersect my background and understanding of Health Care services with the perspective of patients, family and carers.

What is it about your work that makes you want to get out of bed each morning?

Well I am retired, so the stimulus to getting out of bed is mainly a pot of tea.

What does a typical day at work look like for you?

Currently all my Advisory work is done on line, and additionally includes quite extensive involvement in Monash Health via my other Consumer Advisor hat. I would typically participate in around 4-6 meetings/workshops/panels each week.

How do you manage work / life balance?

This should be easy as I am retired, but like many people in my stage of life I often wonder how I would find time to work now! I "work" but not for remuneration which gives me a freedom and flexibility not available when one is employed. I have a number of interests I am able to pursue in addition to my Consumer Advisory activity.

Before COVID-19 I travelled a lot as well, looking forward to being able to resume this one day, my bucket list is still full. The photo is from the Galapagos Islands.



Are there any patient success stories that you can share?

I am a patient who has been in remission for 9 years now. I count that as success.