

Hear about innovative SMICS cancer projects

Participants will hear about three innovative projects that are improving outcomes for patients and upskilling health professionals at the Southern Melbourne Integrated Cancer Service (SMICS) Annual Forum on Thursday 26 October.

SMICS is one of nine Victorian Integrated Cancer Services that form Victoria's cancer services improvement network. SMICS partners with public and private health services and other cancer care stakeholders to deliver key priorities in the Victorian Cancer Plan.

SMICS aims to improve patient experiences and outcomes by connecting cancer care and driving best practice.

Participants will have the opportunity to raise questions and offer perspectives in the free one-hour forum, which will be hosted by SMICS Clinical Directors Associate Professor Andrew Haydon and Associate Professor Zee Wan Wong. The online forum aims to inform clinicians, primary care professionals, cancer-related non-government organisations, and consumers.

The projects to be presented are:

- The Metastatic Breast Cancer Nurse Training Program pilot project, an Australian first that is designed to upskill and empower McGrath Breast Care Nurses who care for people with metastatic breast cancer. 'Rosie', the telepresence robot allows nurses to take part in the training program at Moorabbin Hospital from anywhere in Australia. The program is delivered by the McGrath Foundation, Monash Health, Monash University and SMICS.
- An Alfred Health program that aims to identify nutritional biomarkers in oesophago-gastric cancer patients to identify malnutrition early and more accurately to assist dietitian assessment and nutrition intervention. The project also aims to develop mechanisms for communication of patients at high nutritional risk to all relevant treating clinicians, regardless of their location, and to develop feasible, standardised nutrition care pathways for nutritionally high-risk patients across health care services.
- A Monash Health-led pilot project that focuses on a specialist speech pathology service for head and neck oncology patients with an altered airway, through implementation of proactive and preventative community-based care via telepractice. Supported by the SMICS Funding Program, the project uses video and phone calls to extend standard onsite care, supporting patients through post-surgical grief and adjustment, improving equity of access to speech pathology for those living regionally, and interventions to improve client outcomes and prevent adverse events.

[Register now](#) for the forum or email smics.quality@monashhealth.org

or call (03) 9928 8159 for more information.

