

## 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.