

**SPOTLIGHT ON A CONSUMER:
TOGETHER FOR BETTER CANCER CARE**

Neil is a retired sixty nine year old, lifelong Bendigo resident. He is married (48 years now) with two adult children and one grand-daughter. In 2020 he was diagnosed with an intraductal adenocarcinoma of the prostate, and following assessment and surgery, completed a course of radiation therapy followed by 2 years of androgen deprivation therapy. In his words:

“So far.... so good!”

After schooling in Bendigo, Neil had several clerical jobs before embarking on a Psychiatric Nursing career in 1973. He trained at the Bendigo Psychiatric Centre School of Nursing and completed Post Graduate studies at Latrobe University. He worked in a variety of clinical, educational, project and management fields including acute inpatient psychiatry, community and remote rural psychiatry, intellectual disability, project management on the Victoria- NSW Cross Border Agreement for Mental Health Services, Nursing education, Clinical Team Management, and for the last decade of his nursing career was the Manager of the Older Persons Community Mental Health Service for the London Campaspe – Southern Mallee region. He retired from Bendigo Health in 2019.

In 2022 Neil participated on a focus group conducted by Bendigo Health / LMICS, following which he has been interested in further engagement in contributing to service review and development opportunities.

Neil is currently volunteering as a consumer representative on the LMICS Governance Group.

Consumer representatives can participate in a range of different roles and activities and support the delivery of quality care. If you are interested in becoming a consumer representative working alongside the VICS, contact your local VICS consumer coordinator by going to <https://www.vics.org.au/consumer-links>

