1. Encourage funding bodies to provide support for research studies and clinical trials at regional centres by requiring projects to include a regional site.

2. Establish processes for data linkage between cancer registry, Medicare and hospital registry data sets to facilitate health services and outcomes research.

3. Transfer administrative tasks from clinicians to the non-clinical workforce to ensure optimum use of everyone’s time and skills.

4. Encourage regional cancer centres to assess their capability against agreed service criteria.

5. Set standards for follow-up care and involve the community in survivorship issues.

Many of the recommendations made during the workshop are relevant to cancer service provision in Australia, not just regional and rural areas. It was agreed that the development of regional and rural cancer services presented an opportunity to lead the way in many initiatives that could improve cancer services throughout Australia. The full report will be available shortly.

Leadership in improving cancer research

The Consumer Engagement in Clinical Cancer Research project will be completed and delivered to the project funders Cancer Australia by the time of publication. COSA delivered an extensive (but possibly not exhaustive) set of high quality online educational resources and tools for consumers working in the Cancer Cooperative Trials Groups. We have worked with a broad range of stakeholders – including the trial group consumers, executive officers, chairs, researchers and other health professionals – to identify the requirements for, develop and deliver this valuable resource. We look forward to Cancer Australia's final acceptance and implementation of the resources and thank everyone involved in the process.

The McKeon Review of Health and Medical Research in Australia recently released a consultation paper outlining issues and proposed recommendations from the review. This consultation paper has been released as a draft document to canvass the Panel’s current views of the various issues and seek feedback on proposed recommendations. Many of the recommendations included in our joint submission with Cancer Council Australia have been adopted by the review panel and we are in the process of preparing a response.

Australian Psycho-Oncology Awards

Australia has a proud history of excellence in psycho-oncology care and research. In collaboration with the Australian Psycho-Oncology Group and the Psycho-Oncology Cooperative Research Group, COSA has forged this field of oncologic care and ensured its place as part of multi-disciplinary care. In recognition of the efforts of individuals whose contributions ensure ongoing quality psycho-social care for people living with cancer, COSA has introduced two inaugural awards in psycho-oncology in 2012. Nominations were reviewed by an independent committee.

The Australia Psycho-Oncology Award recognises the highest level of contribution to psycho-oncology from among COSA members. We are proud to announce the 2012 Australia Psycho-Oncology Award recipient is...
Professor Afaf Girgis. The New Investigator in Psycho-Oncology Award is an opportunity to recognise an investigator, early in their career, for outstanding research contributions in the field of psycho-oncology. COSA is delighted to announce the recipient of the New Investigator in Psycho-Oncology Award in 2012 is Dr Haryana Dhillon.

Both recipients will be formally recognised at the COSA-IPOS conference dinner on Wednesday 14 November.

**Senate Inquiry into Palliative Care in Australia**

In October, the Senate committee released its report of the inquiry into palliative care in Australia. In collaboration with Cancer Voices Australia, COSA made a joint submission to the inquiry. It was very pleasing to see our submission acknowledged in the report which can be accessed via the Parliament of Australia website.

**Asia Pacific Mentoring Program fellowships**

Following a successful pilot in 2011, COSA has again funded a visiting fellow under our Asia Pacific Mentoring Program for a 12 week observation. In October we welcomed our third fellow funded under the program, Dr Sanjay Dhiraaj, from the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institution of Medical Sciences in Lucknow, India. Dr Dhiraaj is being hosted by Dr Odette Spruyt, Director of Pain and Palliative Care at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. While this is a costly program, COSA is dedicated to continuing its support for health professionals working in the Asia Pacific region. We are also investigating other grant opportunities as a means of funding additional fellows.

Marie Malica, Executive Officer