Inquiry into the equitable access to diagnosis and treatment for individuals with rare and less common cancers, including neuroendocrine cancer

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Melbourne Hearing –1 February 2024

Additional information

I did have one further comment, which I did not have the opportunity to make during the hearing, related to sharing ideas about how to improve rates of diagnosis of neuroendocrine cancers.

Many (indeed likely the majority) of patients seek advice from health practitioners aside from their GPs, in the often long and protracted path to diagnosis. These often include naturapaths, pharmacists, dietitians, and many others. There may be an opportunity that is being missed in providing education to these groups, and I think this would be worth investigating. There may also be some benefit in working with organisations that provide community information about conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome and asthma (even revising the government information available, e.g. https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/irritable-bowel-syndrome-ibs has very little reference to the fact that these symptoms may have other causes, such as neuroendocrine tumours).

Many Thanks,

Kate Wakelin (she/ her)
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