

Ingham Cancer Research Community Panel- July 2015

The Ingham Cancer Research Community Panel was established in 2014 to provide an opportunity for community members to learn about and provide active input to the cancer research projects being undertaken at the Ingham Institute. Our panel members are members of the local and wider community with first-hand experience of the cancer journey as either patients or carers. Each of our panel members receives training on the core processes involved in cancer research and how they can best support our research. This training is based on material provided by the NSW Cancer Council.

Our community members provide critical guidance to our researchers in a number of areas. Our Community Panel helps us in establishing key research priorities and ensures that these priorities are in-line with aspects that are important to our community. In particular our panel members understand the patient and carer perspective and how to communicate research study designs to study participants. For instance our community members gave valuable advice regarding how many extra imaging scans it may be reasonable to ask patients to undergo, they provided a patient perspective on when the best time might be to talk to patients about involvement in clinical trials, they pointed out where information to patients needed to be improved and provided general guidance on patient information sheets and consent forms to provide the information patients and carers need without being too complicated.

Our panel meets twice a year with a number of research projects presented at each meeting. Researchers present their project ideas to the Community Panel for input. Once the working relationships of interested panel members and the leading researchers are established, panel members will be involved in study designs and development are, and they will be kept in the loop as the projects progress and finally help with guidance how results are presented to the community. Panel members may provide a key role in informing other members from our community about research studies and results from the various Ingham Institute cancer research teams.

We would welcome hearing from anyone in the community who may be willing to provide support for our research through involvement in our panel.