

A NEW GROUP FOR AUSTRALIAN BRAIN TUMOUR PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS

We understand that a motion to voluntarily wind up Brain Tumour Australia was passed at a meeting on 29 August 2008.

Unfortunately, this will create a vacuum for a point of contact for newly diagnosed brain tumour patients, their families and caregivers, and a source of information for them. There will also be a vacuum created for consumer representatives from the brain tumour community to serve on advisory bodies for general cancer issues and brain tumour specific subjects.

A group of people who are part of the Australasian brain tumour community are willing to undertake the difficult task of filling this vacuum and are prepared, in the first instance, to underwrite this work using their own personal resources, while seeking assistance and support from others.

If you are interested in being part of this new project please contact Susan Pitt at PO Box 76 Dickson ACT, or phone Susan 02 62470632 (AH) or Denis Strangman, phone: 02.62583912. Email: string@hotmail.net.au

This group of people are:

Sally Payne: Sister of brain tumour survivor. Program Manager, IT Insearch, UTS. Represented the International Brain Tumour Alliance (IBTA) at the American Society of Clinical Oncology scientific conference, Chicago, 2008. Represented the IBTA at Draft Clinical Guidelines for Glioma meeting, Sydney, 2008.



Sally Payne (left) with a visitor to the International Brain Tumour Alliance information booth at the June 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), Chicago.

Matthew Pitt: Brain tumour survivor. Diagnosed with a juvenile pilocytic astrocytoma (JPA) in 2001 at aged 19. Two craniotomies. Represented Brain Tumour Australia before Senate Inquiry into cancer 2005. Graduated with an Honours degree in Molecular Biology 2006. Public servant.



Matthew Pitt

Susan Pitt: Breast cancer survivor diagnosed in 2004. Mother of Matt, brain tumour survivor. Member of the ACT and District Brain Tumour Network. Member, foundation national committee, Brain Tumour Australia Inc 2003-2005. Drafted application for successful Federal grant for Brain Tumour Australia Inc 2004. Special interest – improving official brain tumours statistics, providing information to those with secondary brain cancer. Public servant.



Susan Pitt with grand daughters Ruby and Ava. Byron Bay. 2008

Denis Strangman: Former caregiver to wife Margaret, who died from a glioblastoma brain tumour in 2001. Foundation Chair, Brain Tumour Australia Inc 2003-2005. Board Member, Cancer Voices Australia, 2005 - . Foundation Chair, International Brain Tumour Alliance (IBTA), 2005 - (www.theibta.org)



IBTA Chair Denis Strangman (standing) meets with patients and families at the Singapore Brain Tumour Support Group meeting, September 2008.

We welcome your support and ideas.

There are many issues which have to be pursued in Australia and New Zealand – access to clinical trials, care coordinators for brain tumour patients, approval of new drugs and therapies, more research, recognition of the unique challenges posed by the diagnosis of a brain tumour, participation in awareness-raising activities, etc.

Help us to be involved in all these issues and to ensure that there is a voice for Australian brain tumour patients and their caregivers not just on a national level but an international level as well.