

Leadership in Action: Feasibility of a Cancer Nurse-Led Melanoma Community of Practice

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Affiliations:

Melanoma Patients Australia (MPA)

Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA)

Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge Traditional Custodians of the land on which I am presenting today, the Whadjuk Nyoongar People, and pay my respects to Elders past and present.

I recognise their connection to country and role in caring for and maintaining country over thousands of years. May their strength and wisdom be with us today.



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Contribution of Cancer Nurses

CNSA Position Statement

- Cancer nurses play a critical role across the cancer care continuum
- Expertise continues to expand with increasing treatment complexity
- Central to delivering safe, evidence-based, person-centred care
- Leadership in education, coordination, and supportive care
- CoPs align with CNSA's vision for capability building

Reference | Contribution of Cancer Nurses to Improve Outcomes for Individuals Impacted by
Cancer CNSA Position Statement | © Cancer Nurses Society of Australia 2024



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MPA & MIA Strategic Alignment

Melanoma Patients Australia (MPA)

- Vision: A nation where no one affected by melanoma walks alone
- Purpose: Support, connect, and advocate
- Strategic Plan 2025–2030: Focus on survivorship, supportive care, and equity

Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA)

- Mission: Zero deaths from melanoma
- Commitment to research, education, and clinical excellence
- Strong focus on multidisciplinary collaboration



Background: Rapid Advances, Rising Complexity, and the Case for a Melanoma-Specific CoP

- Rapid advances in melanoma diagnostics and treatments
- Increasing complexity of nursing practice
- Limited structured opportunities for collaboration
- Communities of Practice (CoPs) strengthen capability through shared learning
- Led to creation of a melanoma-specific CoP

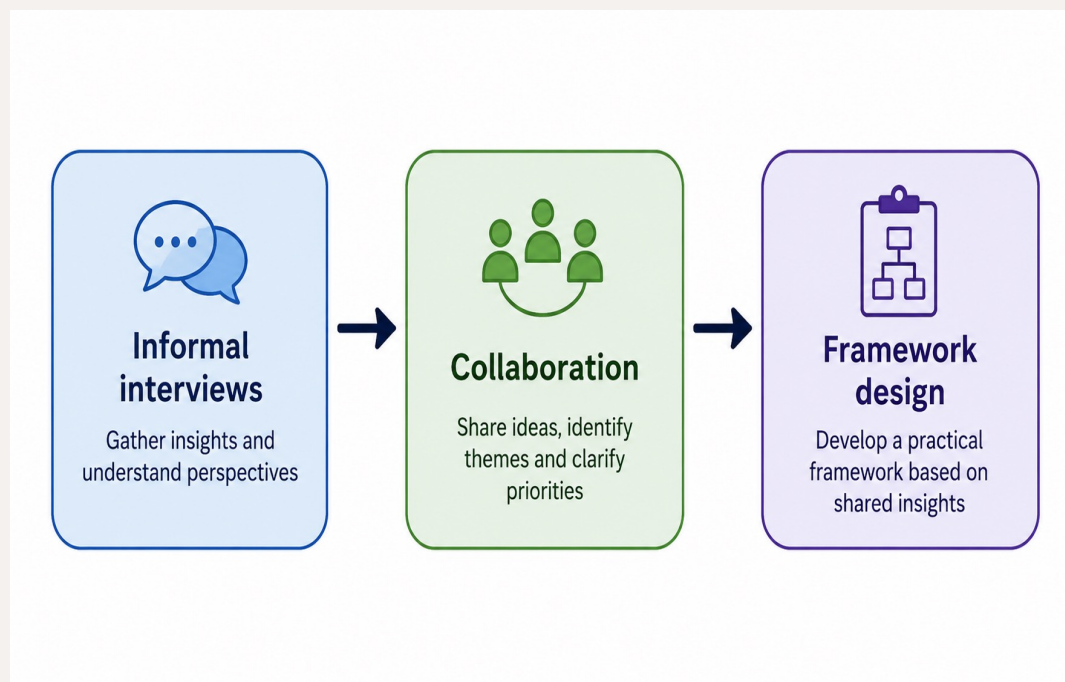


Aim: Assessing Feasibility and Value of a Melanoma Nursing Community of Practice

- Evaluate feasibility and demand for a melanoma nursing CoP
- Support professional development, collaboration, and shared learning

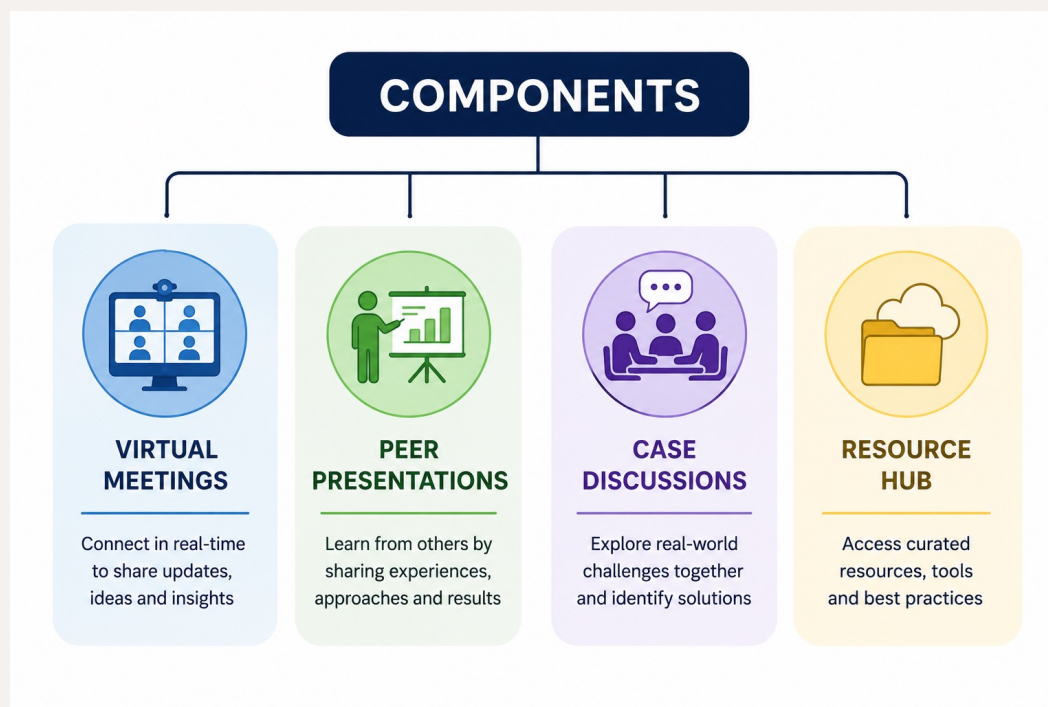
Method: Multi-Phase Needs Assessment to Inform CoP Design

- Multi-phase design
- Informal interviews
- Collaboration with CNSA, MIA, and MPA
- Identified priorities and content needs



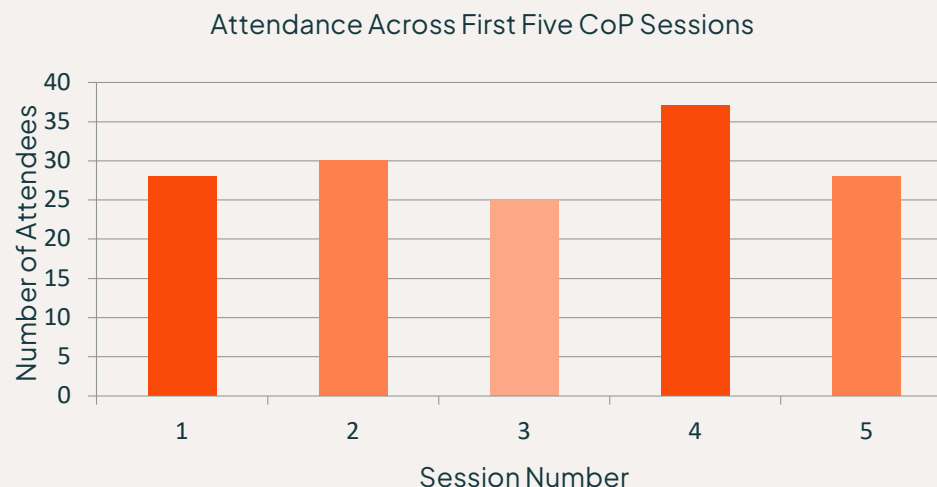
Methods: Framework for Designing and Delivering the Melanoma Nursing CoP

- Quarterly 60-minute virtual meetings
- Peer-led presentations
- Case-based discussions
- Digital resource hub
- Objectives:
 - National engagement
 - Knowledge and skill development
 - Collaboration
 - Awareness of clinical updates
 - Presentation capability
 - Reduced professional isolation



Results: Participation and Engagement Across the First Five CoP Sessions

- 44 nurses registered
- Representation from metro and regional areas
- Attendance across first five sessions:
- Virtual format and timing acceptable
- Limitation



Results: Cross-Institutional Engagement and Collaborative Learning Within the CoP

- Nurse presenters from different organisations
- Cross-institutional collaboration
- Case discussions on:
 - Immunotherapy toxicities
 - Supportive care screening
 - Treatment pathways

Conclusions: Feasibility, Impact, and Strategic Alignment of the Melanoma Nursing CoP

- Melanoma nursing practice is rapidly evolving and increasingly complex
- A Community of Practice provides a practical, sustainable solution
- Strong engagement demonstrates clear need and feasibility
- Supports capability building, collaboration, and consistent care
- Aligns with CNSA, MPA, and MIA strategic priorities
- Next steps: expand, refine, and evaluate impact on practice and outcomes



How to Join

<https://www.cnsa.org.au/group/melanoma-cop.html>

Melanoma CoP

Are you a nurse with an interest in melanoma care? Join our discussions to improve your professional knowledge, skills and practices and network with peers across the country.

Login or Register to Join