



elevate
cancer nursing

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Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre

Partnering with Purpose: Pathways to Meaningful Consumer Engagement

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Consumer Representative

Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA)



Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA)



- Peak national breast cancer consumer organisation
- SATT Program – trains people with a lived experience of breast cancer
- Strong focus on patient advocacy and research incorporating the voices of those with a lived experience of breast cancer
- Play an important role in working alongside researchers and clinicians to improve cancer care



Meaningful Consumer-Researcher Engagement

- Shapes research priorities, funding, and ensures it reflects consumer needs
- Co-design principles and inclusive practices = best practice
- Current gap: engagement is not always meaningful
- Meaningful engagement → better research quality and patient outcomes

Why building capability for meaningful consumer engagement matters

Address
challenges and
barriers

Align with national
priorities

Opportunities for
collaboration

Involvement → Partnership

Workshops to strengthen consumer-researcher partnerships



- Facilitated 2 x full-day COSA pre-conference workshops in 2025
- Co-designed, lived experience-led
 - 147 participants (across both workshops; sold out)
 - Representation across all cancer types (e.g., lung, melanoma, head & neck)
 - Attendees: consumers, researchers, clinicians and Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program (ACNNP) organisations
- Evaluation – ethics approval
- Options to stay connected with BCNA

Workshop 1: COSA Survivorship Conference Melbourne, March 2025

'From Patient to Partner: Unlocking the Power of Consumer Engagement'



Reflections from Workshop 1



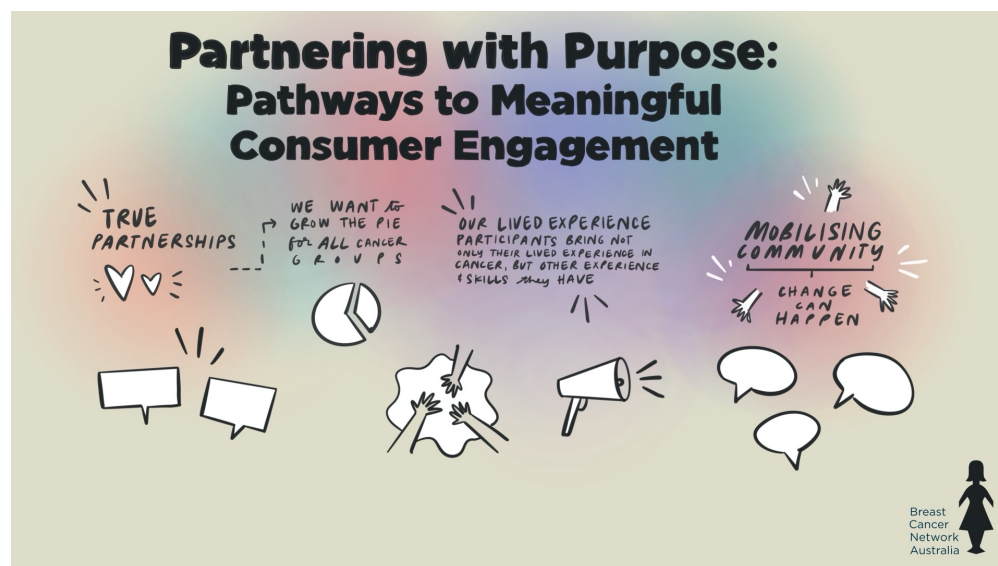
Workshop 2: COSA-IPOS ASM

Adelaide, November 2025

'Partnering with Purpose: Pathways to Meaningful Consumer Engagement'



Reflections from Workshop 2



100% would
attend again and
recommend the
workshop to others
(both)

95% felt the
workshop met or
exceeded
expectations (both)

100% reported
new insights into
consumer-
researcher
collaboration (Nov)

What is the value of training?

Attendees with **previous training** in consumer engagement:

- Researchers (25%)
- Cancer organisation representatives (37%)
- Consumer representatives (66%)

Post-workshop evaluations:

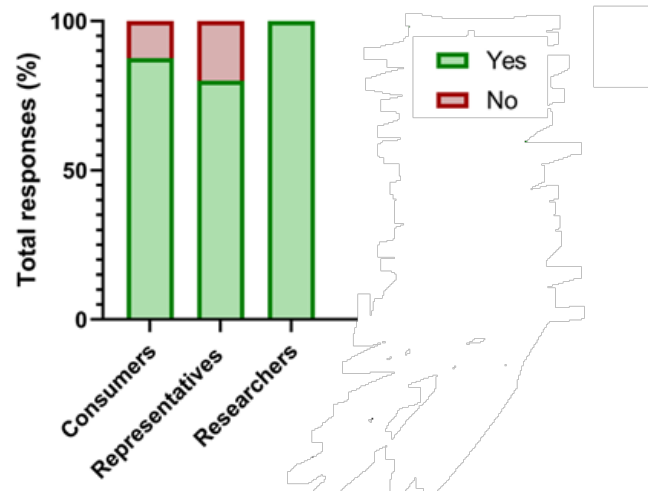


Researchers +124%

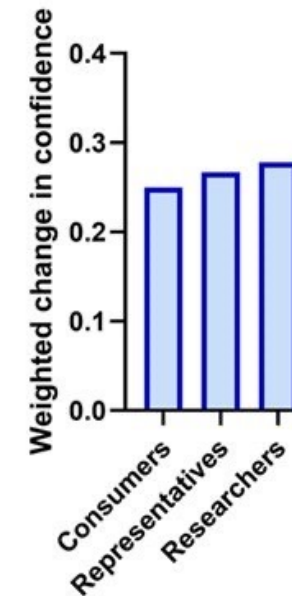
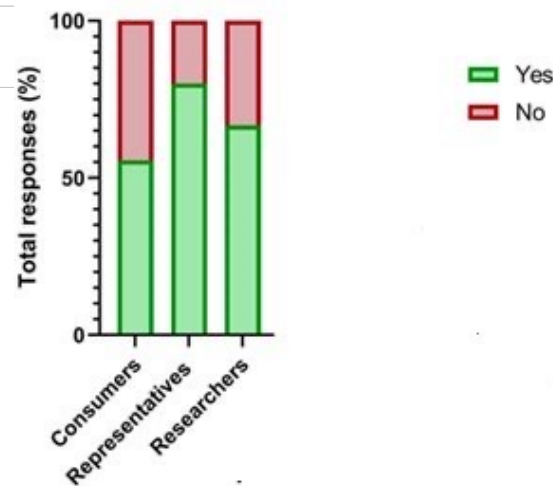
Organisation reps +70%

Positive change in behaviour and confidence

Did you follow through on the commitment you made during the workshop?



Have you made changes in your approaches to consumer-researcher collaborations?



In summary...

- Training is essential
- Researchers gained the most value
- Consumers gained new perspectives
- Accountability matters
- Collaboration is key

Staying Connected

If you are interested in BCNA's
consumer-research partnerships or the
Seat at the Table (SATT) program

