

RTN-Vic

Regional Trials Network - Victoria

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Annual Face to Face Meeting For RTN-Vic & ReViTALISE

54 Members from across the Network travelled from as far as Mildura and Latrobe to meet at the end of March for the annual RTN-Vic and ReViTALISE face to face at the RACV Goldfields in Creswick.

The focus of the meeting was to encourage collaboration between initiatives and sites, as 2022-2023 has seen a continued expansion of size and headcount across the network.

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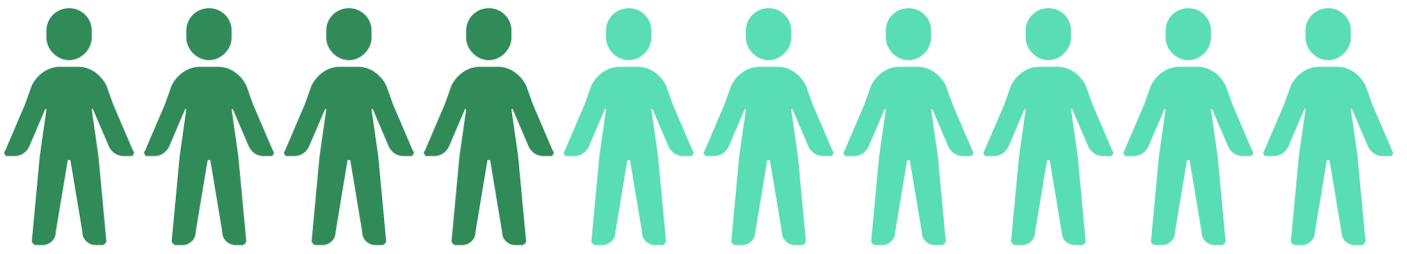


RTN-Vic

p. 0411 209 264

e. dlong@bordermedonc.com.au

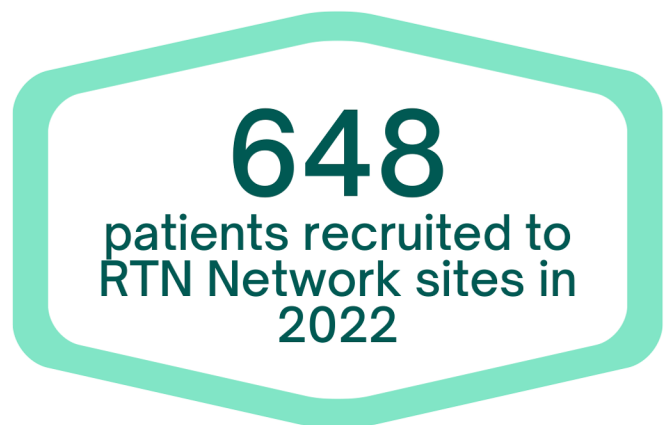
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Research Participation Continues State-Wide

2022 Continues to see Network growth in both Research Activities and Patient Recruitment. As a key marker of equitable access, our continued progress means improved patient outcomes for regional victorian patients and the success of the RTN-Vic.

- Total research activities experienced at 38% growth on 2021, from 177 studies to 244.
- Patient recruited to CTMS eligible trials has also increased year on year, with 258 patients recruited in 2022, up from 117 in 2021.
- While patients recruited across all studies combined has dropped from 658 to 648 (-2%), clinical research enrolment has seen a far greater drop nation wide, and RTN-Vic has outperformed the national average.



Mildura Base Hospital Opens Research Unit with help from ReViTALISE & Alfred Health TrialHub

In February the Mildura Base Hospital opened their \$300,000 clinical trials and research unit, the 8th site for RTN-Vic.



MBPH CMO Louise Litten, ReViTALISE Project Manager Donna Long, Cancer Trials Australia ECO Kurt Lakovic, MBPH Oncologist Dr Krishna Kachakonda, Project Officer Christie Hamilton and CEO Terry Welsh.

Mildura Base Hospital services a rural population of approximately 80,000 Victorians and is a referral centre for smaller regional services in the North West of Victoria, providing research access to these Victorians represents a major strategic step in outcomes across the state.

The new premises are now almost fitted out, and coordinators Mardi Cleggett and Claire Glasson recently travelled to visit Network partners Border Medical Oncology in Albury and Bendigo to understand other regional unit work-flows and see how they could integrate best practices into the new unit at Mildura. Mentoring from regional sites with years of experience in conducting research in non-metropolitan centres is one of the strongest ways the RTN can support the success of new research centres across the state.

With the unit now set-up and ready, the focus for Mildura has turned to moving their first trial through research governance and they're on track to recruiting their first patient to a trial in Mildura by October 2023.

Opportunities to Engage from the Creswick Meeting



Every Voice presents on first consumer meeting

Recognising the unique challenges of cancer patients in regional and rural Victoria starts at the consumer level, and as part of the ReViTALISE initiative, Kathleen Wilkins, chair of the Every Voice Consumer Group, presented on the consumer group's activities.

A group of consumers now exists to bring experience in to other initiatives and provides a great resource across the network. Kathleen flagged the ongoing need for other initiatives to include consumer feedback and ideas as the RTN continues to develop, and tap in to the potential of the knowledge and experience of the Every Voice Group. If you have a patient or carer interested in being involved you can contact kwilkinsbandiana@gmail.com directly.

Understanding Geriatric Oncology Research in the Regional Setting.

An invitation to participate in our survey

Prof Christopher Steer presented on the ongoing work of the Geriatric Oncology Initiative to see older persons (65 years and older) more represented in cancer clinical trials. As older persons may be reluctant to enter clinical trials more broadly, adding the burden of travel to metropolitan to regional travel can contribute to under-representation in research.

The aim of the Geriatric initiative is to improve access for participation, increase the number of older adults enrolling in clinical trials as well as build capacity and capability to conduct geriatric oncology clinical trials in regional areas.

Part of that work has begun with a baseline survey and KAP analysis, to better understand the knowledge, attitude and practices of clinicians and service administrators within the RTN-Vic network.

If you are a service administrator or clinician with remote in the RTN-Vic Network, please take a moment to visit the survey.



[Link to Survey](#)

https://redcap.link/GO_REVITALISE



RTN-Vic members

Grampians Health

Barwon Health

Bendigo Health

Border Medical Oncology
Research Unit

Cancer Trials Australia

Latrobe Regional Hospital

Goulburn Valley Health

Mildura Base Public Hospital

South West Healthcare

RESOURCES

National Clinical Trial Governance Framework

VCCC Teletrials information & resources

Thank you to our Sponsors

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Initiative, 2019 Rural, Regional and Remote
Clinical Trial Enabling Infrastructure grant for
the ReViTALISE Project of \$18.6 million



Australian Government
Department of Health

The Victorian Government through the Victorian
Cancer Agency grant for the Improving Rural
Health Outcomes Initiative of \$2.4 million



Thank you to our partners



VICTORIAN
COMPREHENSIVE
CANCER CENTRE



Cancer Trials
Australia

Success is not final;
Failure is not fatal: It is the
courage to continue that
counts

Winston S. Churchill



Bridging the metropolitan regional trials gap by 2025