

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

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**Peter Mac**

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Victoria Australia

20/11/2023

To whom it may concern

It is with great pleasure I provide this reference for Catherine Deveny to support her application for the Keesing Studio Residency program. I have known Catherine for many years and have collaborated with her in our writing program delivered to patients and staff at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Peter Mac has a wellbeing model of care where we focus on the social determinants of health and how intersectionality determine a person's cancer experience; we utilise the arts as a method of engagement and platform to improve patient experiences. We acknowledge and support patients to recognise they are more than their disease.

Over the last five years I have engaged Catherine to run a series of writing workshops for patients, carers and staff. These classes are always heavily booked and in high demand. These resulted in the publication of a book "Stories from PeterMac" giving the writing participants an opportunity to become a published author. One participant wrote to the Chair of our Board with the following:

"I am so grateful for the care I have received at Peter Mac for treatment of my melanoma. I have had chemotherapy and was a lucky clinical trial participant. I would like the Board to know that of all my various treatments delivered by highly skilled clinicians, by far, the most impactful for me was participating in the Catherine Deveny writing classes".

Catherine's expertise in encouraging and supporting anyone to become a writer is unique and her understanding of a cancer experience & her own lived experience enables our patients an opportunity to capture what is important to them. This program has further been strengthened by Catherine co-designing a writing therapy "Writing with Cancer Program" with our head of Psychosocial Oncology Professor of Psychiatry Steve Ellen.

I highly recommend Catherine as a candidate for this incredible opportunity and know that if successful, the impact this program will have for our future patients is immeasurable. I am happy to be contacted as required for further referee check.

Kind regards

Geri McDonald

Director Wellbeing and Patient Experience

Patron: The Honourable Linda Dessau, AC – Governor of Victoria

Peter Mac respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.