



STRATEGIC PLAN

2018 - 2020

Our Purpose

- Support members through the provision of relevant information and access to services in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia
- Create awareness of the everyday impacts of living with scleroderma to our members, the medical profession and the community and empower others to support us in our campaign for equity and improved quality of life.
- Encourage research through the provision of funds to Scleroderma Australia, ASIG and other research programs
- To raise funds to facilitate this purpose

SUPPORT

Expand and professionalise Support Groups

AWARENESS

Sunflower Heroes and Social Media

Medical Profession

GOVERNANCE

Policy and Procedure



Support

The key focus of Scleroderma Victoria for 2018/19 is to expand and professionalise our Support Groups.

It is well recognised that those who have shared experiences can better relate to others who are experiencing the same or similar difficulties. The symptoms and difficulties faced by people with scleroderma vary greatly and to some extent only those who are living with the medical condition are best able to understand. Scleroderma Victoria recognises this fact and promotes this fact.

Scleroderma Victoria currently supports 11 support groups around Victoria and Tasmania. Support groups are currently located at:

- Albury/Wodonga
- Ballarat
- Bendigo
- Geelong
- Gippsland
- Hobart
- Inner South Eastern Suburbs
- Mornington Peninsula
- Narre Warren
- North Eastern Suburbs
- Western Suburbs

In 2018 Scleroderma Victoria published Support Group Guidelines to assist support group leaders in establishing and maintaining an affective Support Group.

Scleroderma Victoria is committed to establishing and encouraging the establishment of additional support groups around Victoria and Tasmania. The Committee is working towards identifying areas with high population of Scleroderma Victoria members that may not have an existing support group. The Committee

is looking to establish a new support group in these areas in 2018/19.

In addition to increasing the number of Support Groups, Scleroderma Victoria is committed to continuing to support established groups. The Committee recognises that being a leader of a Support Group can be difficult, especially when living with Scleroderma themselves. The Committee is considering ways that further support can be provided to Leaders to ensure they are able to maintain their Support Group.

If you are interested in becoming a Support Group Leader please phone 03 9288 3651 or email enq@sclerodermavictoria.com.au

Awareness:

Scleroderma is a relatively unknown medical condition. Due to the range of symptoms that can present, diagnosis can be difficult. Currently the ASIG has recorded 10,000 people diagnosed with Scleroderma in Australia. A key focus of Scleroderma Victoria is to continue strategies for raising awareness.

Medical Profession

We now have many treatments that can help people with scleroderma, but each of these apply to specific symptoms. There is no overall cure and we are yet to find a cause. It is extremely important that diagnosis is made as early as possible, so that treatment can begin, and we can potentially save lives.

Scleroderma Victoria is looking at ways to increase awareness of the medical condition within the medical community. Scleroderma Victoria is planning to develop, in conjunction with the leading medical experts in the field, an awareness campaign designed specifically for GPs to help reduce the time of diagnosis.

Scleroderma Victoria is aiming to have this program rolled out by 2020.

Scleroderma Victoria is also investigating the provision of grants and scholarships for medical students to encourage them to learn more about the medical condition and to hopefully one day find a cure.

Sunflower Hero and Social Media

In 2017 Scleroderma Victoria launched its pilot awareness campaign, *Sunflower Hero*. This campaign is premised on raising awareness and support from individuals, small business and corporations who are not currently members of Scleroderma Victoria and most likely do not have the medical condition themselves.

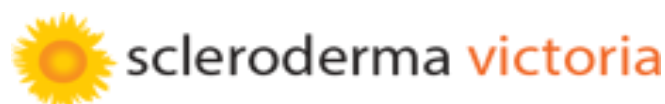
In 2018 Scleroderma Victoria is aiming to expand the current reach of *Sunflower Heroes* through a new dedicated website and other media, marketing and fundraising campaigns. For more information please visit our [Sunflower Hero](#) website.

Scleroderma Victoria has an existing social media presence, including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and now Instagram. Scleroderma Victoria is committed to continuing the campaign of awareness using these tools.

Governance

In 2016 the Scleroderma Victoria Committee undertook a process of reviewing and establishing clear and transparent governance. This process has included the development of a new website as well as engaging in various forms of social media.

Scleroderma Victoria is committed to having its relevant policy, procedure and governance documents published and accessible on its website.



Scleroderma Victoria Incorporated

41 Victoria Parade

FITZROY VIC 3065

Phone: 03 9288 3651

E: enq@sclerodermavictoria.com.au

W: www.sclerodermavictoria.com.au

