

Australian Cancer Plan

What is the Australian Cancer Plan?

The Australian Cancer Plan (the Plan) is a national strategy to enhance experiences and outcomes for all Australians affected by cancer, as well as their families and carers. The Plan highlights opportunities and actions for the entire cancer control system to work together so all people in Australia can receive the best possible cancer care over the next 10 years and beyond.



The Plan is available at australiancancerplan.gov.au

Why do we need a national cancer plan?

Although cancer outcomes in Australia are among the best in the world, not every Australian experiences the same level of care. Certain groups within our society, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culturally and linguistically diverse people, gender diverse people, and those living in remote and regional areas, face significant differences in their cancer outcomes. The Plan outlines a structured approach to improving cancer control and explains how different parties will collaborate to achieve better results.

The goal is for everyone affected by cancer and everyone engaged in the cancer sector in Australia to see themselves in the Plan.

The current state of cancer in Australia

Cancer is a leading cause of death in Australia. There are over 1 million Australians living with cancer or who have had cancer in the past. This number is expected to grow over time as the number of new cases of cancer and the number of people continuing to live with cancer increases.

Overall, Australia has one of the highest rates of people surviving cancer in the world. However, not all Australians benefit from these improvements equally. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to die from cancer than non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and this gap is increasing. Also, some types of cancer have not shown the same improvement in survival rates as others. The Plan aims to address these variations and improve cancer survival rates for all Australians.

What is the vision for cancer control in the future?

In the future, cancer care in Australia will deliver high quality experiences and outcomes for everyone. This means that anyone with a cancer diagnosis will be served by a system that respects them as an individual, including their culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, health status, location, and education level. Achieving equity in cancer experiences and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is a top priority for the future of cancer care. Culturally safe and respectful care will be provided, free from discrimination or racism.

People living with cancer and their caregivers will play an important role in their own care and be at the centre of it. They will be supported to navigate the healthcare system smoothly and easily, with well-connected and accessible services throughout their cancer journey. To achieve these goals, there will be a focus on improving research and data on cancer, supporting Australia's healthcare workforce, and increasing access to the best care for all Australians.



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How is the Plan structured?

The Plan identifies six Strategic Objectives where national focus and effort are required to deliver better experiences and outcomes for the next decade and beyond. Each objective has a 10-year ambition, 2- and 5-year goal, and priority actions to achieve these goals and ambitions.

Optimal Care Pathways (OCPs) are embedded in the Plan as national standards of care, including cancer-specific and population-specific OCPs.

How was the Plan developed?

The Plan was created through extensive involvement from different groups across the cancer sector, including people affected by cancer, consumer organisations and

peak bodies, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, representatives from priority population groups, researchers, health professionals, non-governmental organisations, and policymakers. Through these discussions and additional research, the ambitions, goals, and actions for the Plan were chosen and refined.

The Plan is founded on principles and best practices for co-design in healthcare with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

How will the Plan be implemented?

Implementing the Plan is a collaborative effort that demands coordinated action across the cancer control system, including governments, non-government organisations, and the health and research sectors.

To read the Australian Cancer Plan, visit australiancancerplan.gov.au



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