About Ovarian Cancer

- In 2018, it is estimated that 1,613 cases of ovarian cancer will be diagnosed, making it the second most common gynaecological cancer after uterine cancer in Australia.¹
- It is estimated that ovarian cancer will be the most common cause of death from gynaecological cancer in Australia during 2018, with approximately 1,069 deaths predicted.²
- While the five year relative survival rate for ovarian cancer has improved from 1984–1988 to 2009–2013, it remains low in comparison with other cancers. 44 out of 100 women diagnosed with ovarian cancer survive five years beyond their diagnosis.³

Cancer Australia’s work in gynaecological cancer

- New recommendations on genetic testing for women with ovarian cancer
  A new Position Statement on Genetic testing for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer launched by Cancer Australia on 1 February 2018 recommends that all women diagnosed with invasive epithelial ovarian cancer be offered assessment of their genetic risk, regardless of their age or family history. See page 2 for more information.

- GP guidance on follow-up care for women with low-risk endometrial cancer
  Cancer Australia has released a new resource Follow-up care for women with low-risk endometrial cancer – A guide for General Practitioners to assist GPs in managing aspects of follow-up care and support for women following completion of treatment for low-risk endometrial cancer.

  Follow-up care for low-risk endometrial cancer involves the detection of cancer recurrence, the management of co-morbidities, secondary prevention, quality of life and psychosocial support, and care which can be appropriately and feasibly delivered in a primary care setting.

- No-one knows your body like you do ovarian cancer awareness campaign
  Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in February provides the opportunity to focus attention on ovarian cancer, the second most common gynaecological cancer and the most common cause of gynaecological cancer death in women in Australia.

  The symptoms of ovarian cancer are not widely known and there is no screening test for the disease, so it is important for women to know their own bodies and be aware of the symptoms.

  Cancer Australia’s No-one knows your body like you do social media campaign identifies symptoms of ovarian cancer to look out for and what women should do.

For women concerned about their family history of breast or ovarian cancer, their doctor can assess their risk using Cancer Australia’s online tool Familial Risk Assessment – Breast and Ovarian Cancer (FRA-BOC).
Shape national cancer control in Australia


The annual Jeannie Ferris Cancer Australia Recognition Award, which recognises outstanding contributions to improving outcomes for women with gynaecological cancers, honours the late Senator Jeannie Ferris. The successful 2017 award recipients were Ms Paula Benson in the Community Member category and Professor Andreas Obermair in the Health Professional/Researcher category.

Cancer Australia’s Gynaecological Cancer Advisory Group meets twice a year to advise on priority areas and issues of national relevance in gynaecological cancer.

Improve cancer outcomes

Publish Position Statement on genetic testing in women diagnosed with ovarian cancer to provide the Australian community with evidence-based advice on genetic testing in women diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

The Position Statement provides health professionals with evidence-based advice and recommendations on appropriate referral for genetic risk assessment and genetic testing for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

Gene faults are common in women with ovarian cancer. They can be inherited from the mother’s or father’s side of the family. These gene faults are found in approximately 14% of women in Australia with epithelial ovarian cancer, which is the most common type of ovarian cancer.

Identification of an inherited gene fault is important as it can influence available treatment options for the woman with ovarian cancer. It can also allow the assessment and management of risk of other cancers, and assist in the assessment and management of risk in other members of the woman’s family.

The Position Statement on genetic testing for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer is endorsed by the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, the Medical Oncology Group of Australia, the Human Genetics Society of Australasia, the Australian Society of Gynaecologic Oncologists and Ovarian Cancer Australia.

2017 Jeannie Ferris Cancer Australia Recognition Award recipients

Call for nominations for the 2018 Jeannie Ferris Cancer Australia Recognition Award are now open!

Go to canceraustralia.gov.au
Improving outcomes for women diagnosed with gynaecological cancers in Australia by identifying the priority areas for action across the cancer continuum, promoting strategies to guide innovative and sustainable delivery of care, improve outcomes in priority population groups and inform future research initiatives.

- **Update** Position Statements on population screening and early detection of ovarian cancer in asymptomatic women, and surveillance of women at high or potentially high risk of ovarian cancer.

- **Raise awareness** of gynaecological cancers including activities in Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and on Teal Ribbon Day to promote evidence-informed messages for women, health professionals and the community.

- **Release** a handbook for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers to assist them to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with gynaecological cancers.

A handbook for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners

- **Inform** effective and sustainable cancer care

- **Promote** evidence-based guidance for General Practitioners about follow-up care for women with low-risk endometrial cancer.

- **Lead** the development of a supportive care needs assessment tool for women with gynaecological cancers to support women to live well during their cancer diagnosis, treatment and beyond.

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- **Strengthen capability for national cancer control**

- **Award** research grants in gynaecological cancers through Cancer Australia’s Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme (PdCCRS), a national project grants scheme that brings together Government and non-government funders in a nationally coordinated process. Through the 2007 to 2017 rounds of the PdCCRS, over $15.2 million has been provided to 32 gynaecological cancer grants.

- **Build** capacity to conduct cancer clinical trials in Australia. Between July 2013 and 30 June 2018, Cancer Australia will have provided $2.3 million to the Australian New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) to develop industry-independent cancer clinical trials in gynaecological cancers.

- **Translate** evidence into practice through co-funding National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Translating Research into Practice (TRIP) Fellowships to support researchers in gynaecological cancers.
What you can do to help reduce the impact of ovarian cancer in Australia

Raise awareness

View and share Cancer Australia’s new ovarian cancer awareness video *No-one knows your body like you do.*

*Suggested post*
Can you name the symptoms of ovariancancer? Watch @CancerAustralia’s video and be #ovariancanceraware
http://ow.ly/r1pk308HHqd

Share Cancer Australia’s ovarian cancer awareness flyer *No-one knows your body like you do.*

*Suggested post*
Do you know the symptoms of #ovariancancer? No one knows your body like you do
http://ow.ly/r1pk308HHqd @CancerAustralia

Support

Health professionals to follow best practice in the appropriate assessment and referral of women with symptoms that may be ovarian cancer, and the assessment of risk of breast and ovarian cancer for women concerned about their family history.

*Suggested posts*
@CancerAustralia Assessment of symptoms that may be #OvarianCancer – an important guide for GPs http://ow.ly/YmsAc
Appropriate referral for women with suspected #OvarianCancer. View @CancerAustralia resource to help guide referrals
http://ow.ly/YmsFE
GP assessment of family history – use @CancerAustralia online assessment tool (FRA-BOC) http://ow.ly/Ypb6M

About Cancer Australia

Cancer Australia was established by the Australian Government to benefit all Australians who are diagnosed with cancer, their families and carers.

Cancer Australia aims to minimise the impact of cancer, address disparities and improve the health outcomes of people affected by cancer in Australia, by:

- leading and coordinating national, evidence-based interventions across the continuum of care
- focusing on populations which experience poorer health outcomes, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people living in rural and remote Australia
- building and analysing the evidence base and translating the latest scientific cancer research and data to inform policy and practice
- providing information and expert advice on cancer control to governments, health professionals and the community.

Cancer Australia harnesses expertise, creates effective partnerships and utilises a collaborative model to foster engagement across the health system.

References


* Mortality rates shown in this document are “age-standardised” which means that the age distribution of the population is also considered. Therefore, any differences we see in these rates are not due to differences in the age distributions of populations being compared.