



Australian CDC Consultation

In April 2025, Cancer Council Australia completed a submission to the Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) Consultation Survey. The consultation was conducted by ARTD Consultants on behalf of the Department of Health and Aged Care. The consultation aimed to gather additional insights into the key issues identified in previous consultations regarding the use of Australians' health data by the Australian CDC, and to seek feedback on proposed actions the CDC could take to address those concerns.

Cancer Council's submission included the following areas:

- The importance of a data culture whereby transparency is maintained on what health data is accessed, how data security is maintained and how data is being used.
- The need for the CDC's data management to align with current Australian standards for health data privacy and security.
- Given data linkage with other national datasets will be essential to the CDC's development, a single independent custodianship of a national health data repository could facilitate safe, streamlined and timely access to linked health data.
- It is vital that health data reflects the full diversity of the Australian population. The CDC must achieve adequate representation of hard-to-reach, under-represented communities. Extensive community engagement will be vital to accurately assessing the needs of specific communities.
- Social determinants of health are key in predicting trends in diseases and illnesses. The CDC's data collection, integration and linkage must involve a variety of different datasets outside of the health sector to inform how socioeconomic and related factors influence health outcomes.
- The CDC is a new initiative for Australians, therefore extensive community engagement will be required to improve the public's understanding of the CDC's role, scope and its potential impact on the future of Australia's disease control.
- It is essential that First Nations data sovereignty is upheld by the CDC and across all national initiatives that utilise First Nations health data. Community leadership is critical to determine Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data sovereignty and to identify appropriate data collection, management, and use.

Further Information on the development of the Australian Centre for Disease Control can be found on the Department of Health and Aged Care's website: <https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/Australian-CDC>.