



Director Cancer Control Policy

Candidate Information Pack

About Cancer Council Australia

Cancer Council Australia is the nation's leading non-government cancer control organisation. We unite the eight state and territory Cancer Councils to deliver evidence-based policy, advocacy, prevention, support services and research investment. Our work spans every stage of the cancer journey, ensuring that no one faces cancer alone.

Our strategic priorities include:

- Cancer research
- Policy and advocacy
- Prevention and early detection
- Sustainability and organisational excellence
- Information and support for people affected by cancer

Role Overview

The Director, Cancer Control Policy is a senior executive leadership role reporting to the Chief Executive Officer and is a member of the CCA Executive Team. This role provides national leadership in cancer control policy and advocacy, guiding the development of evidence-based policy positions, strengthening government and stakeholder relationships, and positioning Cancer Council Australia as the trusted national voice on cancer control.

The Director leads a high-performing policy and advocacy team and works closely with Cancer Council Australia's Federation, national committees, government, peak bodies and the media. The role may deputise for the CEO in public forums and act as a media spokesperson.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership

Cancer Council Australia's flagship policy platform, the National Cancer Control Policy sets the direction and priorities for cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, care and system performance across Australia. The Director plays a central role in shaping, evolving and activating this policy agenda. The role requires balancing long-term strategic reform with timely responses to emerging policy, legislative and regulatory developments. This includes:

- Identifying national policy priorities aligned with CCA's strategic objectives
- Translating emerging evidence into clear, actionable policy positions
- Leading proactive advocacy campaigns and government engagement strategies
- Navigating complex federal policy environments and competing stakeholder interests



National Leadership & Influence

The Director represents Cancer Council Australia at the highest levels of government and public debate. This includes:

- Building trusted relationships with Ministers, Departments and regulatory bodies
- Engaging with Members of Parliament and advisors
- Collaborating with peak bodies, consumer organisations and public health leaders
- Acting as a media spokesperson on cancer control issues
- Deputising for the CEO in national forums when required

The role requires sound judgement in balancing advocacy ambition with reputational risk, ensuring consistent messaging across the Cancer Council Federation.

Executive & Federation Collaboration

As a member of the Executive Team, the Director contributes to whole-of-organisation strategy, culture and performance.

The role works closely with:

- The CCA Board
- The Cancer Council CEO Forum
- National committees and subject matter experts
- State and Territory Directors of Prevention, Policy, Information and Support

Stakeholder Engagement

Success in this role depends on strong relationships, leadership, building consensus across jurisdictions while maintaining national strategic clarity through;

- Building and maintaining strong relationships with member Cancer Councils
- Engaging effectively with external partners, auditors, licensees and service providers
- Strengthening collaboration across the Federation

People Leadership

The Director leads a small, high-performing policy and advocacy team. The role is responsible for:

- Foster a culture of inclusion, psychological safety and continuous improvement
- Support capability development and strong performance outcomes
- Ensuring policy work is evidence-based, prioritised and impactful
- Creating a culture of accountability, collaboration and high trust
- Supporting professional development and capability uplift
- Monitoring and evaluating advocacy outcomes

Funding & Sustainability

The role also contributes to securing external funding through grant applications and strategic proposals, ensuring policy work is sustainable and aligned to priority reform areas.



Key Selection Criteria

Essential

- Demonstrated experience in evidence-based policy development including high-level evidence review and analysis, particularly in public health and policy development
- Demonstrated ability to develop and sustain productive and collaborative stakeholder relationships
- Demonstrated experience in managing and developing a high performing team
- Strong leadership capabilities with ability to work under limited direction
- High level communication and interpersonal skills with a track record of negotiating and influencing a diverse range of stakeholders
- Demonstrated experience in government relations and advocacy
- Tertiary qualifications in health, science, policy or a related field
- Understanding of and commitment to the not-for-profit sector

Desirable

- Media training and experience
- Previous experience or great understanding of cancer control or public health
- Grant writing and publication skills



Recruitment Process

Stage 1: Application Review

The selection panel will assess applications against the key selection criteria.

Stage 2: First Interview

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a behavioural and capability-based interview.

Stage 3: Final Interview

Finalists will meet with the CEO and/or Executive panel.

Stage 4: Referees and Pre-Employment Checks

Referees will be contacted, followed by standard employment checks.

Stage 5: Offer

The successful candidate will be contacted with a formal offer.

**All enquiries can be directed in writing to Purposehr@cancer.org.au