



Consultation on the draft Australian Cancer Plan

Cancer Australia, the Australian Government's cancer control agency, released the draft Australian Cancer Plan (ACP) for consultation in October 2022. The ACP will be a 10-year plan for national action, with 2-, 5- and 10-year priorities and goals. It will be designed for use by governments, policy makers, service planners, cancer organisations and research funders, and its implementation will require collaborative effort across all stakeholders.

Cancer Council is fully supportive of the development of an ACP and has been included in several opportunities to share our vision for a national approach to cancer control in Australia that is effective now and into the future. As the first ACP, Cancer Council believes this is a critical initiative in strengthening collaborative action to improve cancer outcomes for all Australians through uniting the actions of all in the cancer control sector. Cancer Council acknowledges the enormous effort and commitment by Cancer Australia to develop this first ACP.

Our submission provided specific feedback to the individual components of the ACP, both in providing support and where there were opportunities to consider strengthening the actions within the plan. The main points raised were:

- Supporting multi-disciplinary and multi-modal navigation as a critical pillar of the ACP to assist people with cancer move through the health system and receive optimal cancer care as recommended by their treatment providers.
- Supporting the ACP's scope of improving cancer outcomes and reducing the burden of cancer that includes preventative actions for all Australians, and actions for people who are suspected of or have been diagnosed with cancer, their family and carers.
- Creating a plan which is focused on health system approaches to reducing cancer outcomes and improve experiences of cancer care.
- Recognition that reducing disparities in cancer outcomes requires both a focus on the factors disproportionately affecting populations with higher incidence, death and poorer experiences of cancer, and addressing these issues for individuals affected in the general population.
- Recognition that people identify as a member of multiple priority populations specifically mentioned within the ACP, and that this can create a larger cancer burden
- Creating a plan which enables people across health and cancer services, government and non-government organisations to work collaboratively to effectively implement the ACP to meet the 2-, 5- and 10 year goals.

Information about the development of the ACP, can be found on the ACP engagement hub [webpage](#).