



## **Fifth National Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2024-2030 Consultation**

In December 2024, Cancer Council Australia completed a submission to the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care on the draft Fifth National Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2024-2030.

This Strategy sits alongside other National Strategies that address human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and Blood-borne viruses (BBV) and sexually transmissible infections (STIs) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. This Strategy is comprised of overarching goals, targets and key areas of action to guide the national response to STI from 2024-2030.

Cancer Council's submission included the following areas:

- Emphasising the impact of STIs on the risk of developing cancer, noting some cancers linked to STIs are not acknowledged in the Strategy, such as liver cancer and anogenital cancers.
- The need for greater alignment within the Strategy between its goals focussing on STI mortality and its key action areas focussing on STI prevention and early detection.
- Health equity for priority populations should be prioritised throughout the strategy.
- Addressing data gaps for individual sociodemographic factors is critical to tracking progress for all priority populations.
- Specific, measurable targets and key areas of action are needed to increase the feasibility of achieving the Strategy's key indicators within the timeframe.
- Less text-heavy formatting would increase the accessibility of the document for a wider audience.
- The need for a specific, detailed surveillance and monitoring plan should be incorporated into the strategy, leveraging existing surveillance and monitoring activities to avoid duplication.

Cancer Council's submission will be made publicly available alongside information about the progress of the consultation on the Department of Health and Aged Care website: [Development of the Fifth National Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2024-2030](#).