



## **Unleashing the Potential of Our Health Workforce: Scope of Practice Review**

In October 2023 Cancer Council Australia completed a submission to the Australian Government for the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce 'Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce' scope of practice review. The aim of the Taskforce is to provide recommendations to the government on the barriers and enablers to the primary care workforce working to their full scope of practice.

The main points in Cancer Council's submission included:

- Enabling primary care to work to their full scope of practice is required to deliver comprehensive preventative care and health promotion activities that address cancer risk, as outlined in the draft Australian Cancer Plan and Australia's Primary Health Care 10-Year Plan 2022-23.
- The development of pathways that allow increased involvement of primary healthcare in implementing population-wide cancer screening programs may help improve participation.
- Support for new models of care that increase the scope of primary care practice in enabling person-centred cancer care to be delivered in the community.
- Support for greater integration of primary care in multidisciplinary teams and shared care arrangements that facilitate improved continuity of cancer care and patient navigation of the healthcare system.
- Enabling primary care to work to their full scope of practice to improve the implementation of optimal care pathways for cancer prevention and early detection to recovery, survivorship, advance care planning and end-of-life care.
- Increased support for the implementation of new technologies that support and enable primary healthcare professionals to work to their full potential.
- Implementation of strategies to ensure primary care workforce and healthcare services are aligned with Optimal Cancer Care Pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer.

Information about the progress of the consultation can be found on the consultation's webpage:

<https://consultations.health.gov.au/pccd-communication/scope-of-practice-review/>