

# Submission on the Draft National Optimal Care Pathways Framework



Following the release of the Australian Cancer Plan, Cancer Australia released a consultation on the Draft National Optimal Care Pathways Framework in March 2024. The Optimal Care Pathways have been embedded in the Australian Cancer Plan as national standards of consistent, safe, high-quality, and evidence-based care. The consultation sought feedback on the draft Framework which aims to standardise the approach to developing, updating, adapting, evaluating and embedding Optimal Care Pathways into cancer care.

Cancer Council supports the development of a National Optimal Care Pathways Framework to guide the consistent development and implementation of optimal cancer care across the health system. Cancer Council provided several suggestions for consideration in finalising the Framework, these included:

- Improving functionality of the Optimal Care Pathways for clinicians.
- Using data to evaluate Optimal Care Pathways.
- Supporting the use of multiple criteria when prioritising the development and updating of Optimal Care Pathways.
- Considering how population specific Optimal Care Pathways and cancer type Optimal Care Pathways intersect to provide best cancer care.
- Embedding Optimal Care Pathways into state/territory cancer plans to support implementation.
- Incorporating Optimal Care Pathways into clinical education and training, including continuous professional development opportunities, and into existing healthcare provider software and referral systems, and usual workflows to enable greater accessibility of Optimal Care Pathways to healthcare professionals.
- Including the role of non-government organisations in the Framework to recognise their role providing navigation and support to people affected by cancer, including access to the consumer versions of the Optimal Care Pathways and to accessing recommended care.
- Supporting the development of quality indicators for monitoring quality supportive care, appropriate clinical management and compliance with recommended best care outlined in the Optimal Care Pathways.

Further information about the consultation is available at: [Cancer Australia | Draft National Optimal Care Pathways \(OCP\) Framework \(engagementhub.com.au\)](https://www.engagementhub.com.au/cancer-australia/draft-national-optimal-care-pathways-framework)