



Optimal Care Pathway for Older People with Cancer

In March 2025, Cancer Council Australia and the McCabe Centre for Cancer and the Law provided feedback to the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) on the draft *Optimal Care Pathway for Older People*. This is a brand-new resource that will map the optimal cancer journey for an older person with cancer in Australia, aiming to reduce disparities between older people with cancer and their younger counterparts.

We were pleased to see that financial toxicity and the importance of supportive care are embedded throughout the Optimal Care Pathway, and the needs of carers of older people are highlighted. These areas of interest closely align with our mission to work towards a cancer-free future and help reduce the physical, emotional, and financial burden of cancer on the lives of all Australians.

Cancer Council's submission included the following recommendations:

- The need to emphasise the importance of navigation to ensure optimal cancer care for older people, and it should be aligned with the messaging in the Australian Cancer Plan.
- The need to emphasise the importance of communication with aged care services to ensure integration and care coordination.
- The need to recognise the impact of aging on mental health and the additional psychosocial support required for older people affected by cancer.

Information about the progress of the consultation can be found on COSA's consultation webpage: <https://www.cosa.org.au/about/projects/optimal-care-pathway-for-older-people-with-cancer/>.