

# National Lung Cancer Screening Program Combined Governance Meeting – Communique 19 February 2025

Implementation partners for the National Lung Cancer Screening Program (NLCSP), including the Department of Health and Aged Care, Cancer Australia and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), convened a joint governance meeting on Wednesday 19 February 2025 in Adelaide.

Attendees included members of the [NLCSP Expert Advisory Committee \(EAC\)](#) and [Program Advisory Group \(PAG\)](#), along with other stakeholders including representatives from the [Cancer and Population Screening \(CAPS\) Committee](#). Other NLCSP implementation partners, such as Telstra Health and Heart of Australia, were also invited to attend and present. Over 50 stakeholders attended the meeting.

The meeting was facilitated by Associate Professor Chris Milross. Associate Professor Milross is Chair of Cancer Australia's Advisory Council, a radiation oncologist, and is Director of Mission at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse.

The Welcome to Country was delivered by Aunty Elaine Magias, a proud Kaurana Narangga woman. Aunty Elaine noted the importance of the program, and how its implementation will improve health outcomes for Aboriginal communities.

The opening address was delivered by implementation partners Professor Dorothy Keefe, CEO Cancer Australia, Ms Jessica Pratt, Department of Health and Aged Care and Mr Peter Bligh, NACCHO welcoming everyone in attendance and recognising the work done by all stakeholders to date.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Take a deep dive into the NLCSP screening and assessment pathway, and
- Discuss preparations for the NLCSP from a jurisdictional perspective.

The deep dive of the screening and assessment pathway was broken up into three sections; overarching program supports and enablers, the role of primary care in the NLCSP, and NLCSP screening, assessment and follow up.

This section of the meeting consisted of eight interconnected presentations and panel discussions:

*Overarching program priorities, supports and enablers*

- Overview of the work to support priority populations, provided by NACCHO, Heart of Australia and the Lung Foundation Australia
- Overview of NLCSP communication and engagement activities, provided by the Department of Health and Aged Care
- Overview of the National Cancer Screening Register, provided by Telstra Health
- Program monitoring and research, provided by the Department of Health and Aged Care Health and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

*Role of primary care in the NLCSP*

- Overview of the role of Primary Care in the NLCSP, provided by Cancer Australia and the Department of Health and Aged Care
- General Practice Readiness, provided by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

*Screening and Assessment*

- Overview of the NLCSP Screening, Assessment Pathway, provided by Cancer Australia and the Department of Health and Aged Care
- The role of radiology in the NLCSP, provided by EAC radiology representatives

The presentations and panel discussions provided attendees with an understanding of how different elements of the program fit together, roles and responsibilities at each stage, the status of key projects and materials and the upcoming priorities to ensure the program is ready for go live in July 2025.

Ms Anne Fidler, LFA Consumer Representative shared her lung cancer experience and journey. This presentation provided a firsthand experience of being diagnosed with stage 4 non-small cell lung cancer and highlighted the importance of the program and the impact it will have on the lives of Australians.

Jurisdictions were invited to present on their progress preparing for the NLCSP. These updates focussed on progress, priorities and challenges ahead of program implementation. Most jurisdictions reported progress on specific arrangements for the NLCSP priority populations, broader communication and engagement activities, health system considerations and primary care support.

In closing remarks, Professor Dorothy Keefe recognised the significant amount of work that has been undertaken by implementation partners, expert stakeholders and suppliers, jurisdictions, and the NLCSP EAC and PAG, and reflected that the program is on-track to commence in July 2025. Professor Keefe noted that commencement, and implementation will continue to be overseen by various jurisdictional and clinical governance and assurance meetings. Professor Keefe thanked attendees for making the time to attend the meeting and noted the value of bringing key stakeholders together to support a shared understanding of the progress to date, and the priorities and challenges for the next 4 months.