



## Preventive Health – streamlining Cancer Australia’s tumour-specific funding streams and support for blood cancers

The Australian Government will consolidate the tumour-specific funding streams of Cancer Australia, allowing for a broader range of initiatives to be supported.

A more flexible funding model will allow Cancer Australia to respond to emerging cancer priorities, with a focus on delivering funding to support a broader range of cancer types.

This new approach to funding will allow Cancer Australia to continue its work to support better patient outcomes, including a focus on cancers with poorer outcomes or population groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and rural and remote communities.

In addition, The Australian Government is supporting the Leukaemia Foundation (\$0.6 million) to implement the National Strategic Action Plan for Blood Cancer. The Action Plan is the first in Australia to comprehensively address best practice care for this group of cancers. Through a coordinated effort across the blood cancer sector, the plan’s 21 steps will improve survival rates for all Australians diagnosed with blood cancer.

### Why is this important?

Over the last three decades, the survival rates for most cancers have improved. However, survival for some cancers has not shown significant improvement in the same period. These include cancers of the larynx, lip cancer, cancer of other digestive organs, mesothelioma and brain cancer.

There is a range of cancers including pancreas, liver and lung whose five-year relative survival rate is 30 per cent or less. Australia has the opportunity to take the lessons from Cancer Australia’s work in breast and gynaecological cancers and apply it to improve outcomes for patients with other types of cancers. Directing efforts to address these disparities will help improve survival outcomes.

In 2019, more than 12,000 Australians were diagnosed with leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

**Who will benefit?**

Australians fighting cancers with lower survival rates will benefit from this new flexibility in how Cancer Australia can direct its efforts. The Action Plan will improve diagnosis, treatment and survival rates for all Australians with blood cancers.

**How much will this cost?**

The Government will invest \$12.1 million from 2020–21 to 2023–24.