

POSITION STATEMENT

Glyphosate (Roundup®)

Our position

Glyphosate is a herbicide found in popular weedkillers and commonly used in the agricultural industry and has been investigated by regulators in relation to potential health risks.

The Leukaemia Foundation is closely monitoring this issue and appreciates the serious and legitimate concerns people have around any potential environmental cause of disease and potential effects on health.

Products containing glyphosate are registered for use in Australia by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA). According to the APVMA, approved products containing glyphosate can be used safely according to the directions listed on the label.

The Leukaemia Foundation supports a scientific approach to regulation that ensures all agricultural chemical products are thoroughly and independently assessed.

Following an assessment by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, and a review by the Australian Department of Health, the APVMA conducted its own assessment of glyphosate in 2016. The APVMA concluded exposure to glyphosate doesn't pose a cancer risk to people.

On the weight of available evidence, the Leukaemia Foundation considers glyphosate is safe for use provided the label directions are met. Should any compelling new research on the use of glyphosate become available, we believe the APVMA should undertake an up-to-date review of their assessment.

The Leukaemia Foundation encourages Australians who work with the chemical in both domestic and commercial settings to take the recommended health and safety precautions, including wearing relevant personal protective equipment that meets Australian standards. In cases of domestic use, the Leukaemia Foundation suggests exercising caution, and to always follow the safety instructions listed on the product packaging.

 **Alignment with Patient First Strategy Pillar:**
Improve the experience for all those affected by blood cancer

What we do

The Leukaemia Foundation is the Australian charity stopping blood cancer from wrecking lives.

We exist for every Australian affected by any type of blood cancer, including leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

The Leukaemia Foundation offers expert support, funds leading-edge research and campaigns to make change for Australians facing blood cancer.

Our goal is zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

Our values power our purpose and drive us toward our goal: we care deeply, we're bold, and we always step up and make it count for people living with blood cancer.

Why we do it

Your blood is a remarkable thing. It keeps you alive by giving your body what it needs, taking away what it doesn't and fighting off infection.

Blood cancer stops your blood from doing what it needs to keep you alive and healthy.

It develops in the places of your body where blood is made, but its exact cause is unknown.

Another 53 Australians are diagnosed with blood cancer each day, joining more than 135,000 people living with the devastating impact of our second most diagnosed cancer.

A range of things affect someone's chance of surviving blood cancer and it can be incurable. Sadly, another 16 Australians will lose their life to blood cancer each and every day.

Frequently asked questions

Is glyphosate known by any other common names?

Glyphosate is a chemical that is found in many known herbicide products, namely RoundUp, KleenUp, Accord, Imitator, Eraser, Pronto and Rodeo.

What is the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA)?

The APVMA is an independent statutory authority that is responsible for regulating agricultural and veterinary chemicals in Australia.

Does the Leukaemia Foundation comment on any ongoing legal action surrounding glyphosate?

No. The Leukaemia Foundation is not qualified to provide comments or advice on these actions, in Australia or in any other jurisdiction.

Further information

Regulatory position: consideration of the evidence for a formal reconsideration of glyphosate, APVMA

Glyphosate: Safety and fact sheet, APVMA

REFERENCES

1. Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA), 2016, Regulatory position: consideration of the evidence for a formal reconsideration of glyphosate. Available: <https://apvma.gov.au/sites/default/files/publication/20701-glyphosate-regulatory-position-report-final.pdf>
2. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), 2015, IARC Monograph on Glyphosate. Available: [https://www.iarc.who.int/featured-news/media-centre-iarc-news-glyphosate/#:~:text=In%20March%202015%2C%20IARC%20classified,of%20%E2%80%9Cpure%E2%80%9D%20glyphosate\).](https://www.iarc.who.int/featured-news/media-centre-iarc-news-glyphosate/#:~:text=In%20March%202015%2C%20IARC%20classified,of%20%E2%80%9Cpure%E2%80%9D%20glyphosate).)
3. Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA), 2019, Glyphosate Fact Sheet. Available: https://apvma.gov.au/sites/default/files/publication/52786-fact_sheet_-_glyphosate_august_2019.pdf

More questions? Get in touch

1800 620 420 | info@leukaemia.org.au | leukaemia.org.au