

Victorian Cancer Plan 2024-2028 Survey Submission

Priority 1: Consumers engaged as partners

Do you want to give feedback on Priority 1: Consumers engaged as partners?

- Yes
 No

Question 1: Do you agree or disagree that a priority for the Victorian cancer plan 2024-2028 should be 'Consumers engaged as partners: Victoria's cancer pathway is designed to meet the diverse and intersecting needs of people affected by cancer, families, carers and communities?'

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Question 2: Do you agree or disagree that the following opportunities to engage consumers as partners should be included in the Victorian cancer plan 2024-2028?

An opportunity is a broad theme that has a good chance for improving the priority.

Improve how consumers understand and reduce their risk of cancer and navigate the cancer pathway to access equitable care and have their unique needs met.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Improve access to cancer services and care for priority population groups by taking an intersectionality approach.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Improve the ability of the cancer system to hear consumer voices to inform their own care, and act on service delivery and system design

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Question 3: Do you agree or disagree that the following actions to engage consumers as partners should be included in the Victorian cancer plan 2024-2028?

An action is a detailed activity that can be done to achieve the opportunities.

Monitor and assess consumers' experiences of care in a culturally safe way and embed findings into care to improve service delivery and system design.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Improve and promote the delivery of health information to people affected by cancer, their families and their carers so they can access, understand and act on it when they are ready.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Improve understanding of the importance of supportive care across a consumer's journey, including building on early work (e.g. social return on investment) of the value of supportive care across a patient's journey.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Identify and act on specific priorities for age-related populations, for example paediatric, adolescent and young adult, and older people.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Support implementation of the Aboriginal Cancer Journey Strategy.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Identify and act on specific priority population groups

For example: age-related populations (paediatric, adolescent and young adult, and older people); LGBTIQ+ people; people with disability.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

To deliver integrated care, consumers continue to inform the design (health service operations, quality improvement and research) across the cancer pathway, including for all priority populations identified.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Embed and spread lessons about effective communication skills for all health providers delivering cancer care to ensure they are effectively listening and responding to the needs of consumers and partner with consumers.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Consumers have options in how they access cancer services, whether it's in person or through telehealth.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Implement the Partnering in healthcare framework to improve partnering with consumers to achieve better outcomes.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Question 4: Please add any comments about this priority, the opportunities and the actions.

Limit to 150 words - Please do not include any personal information in your responses that may identify you or another individual.

- As a patient-focused organisation, Leukaemia Foundation reiterates the importance of including consumer's needs and perspectives front and centre in healthcare policy. This is supported by key Victorian policy frameworks such as the Public Engagement Framework and federally by the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (Partnering with Consumers Standard).
- Leukaemia Foundation have developed Optimal Care Pathways (OCPs) that are a framework for the delivery of consistent, safe, high-quality, and evidence-based care for people with blood cancers irrespective of where they live or receive cancer treatment. The Guides to Best Cancer Care are based on the OCPs but tailored to consumers and aid in providing information about their disease, accessing and navigating the health system, prompting questions to consider asking GPs/specialists, and understanding the optimal care they should receive during their cancer journey.

Strategic opportunities (from consultation paper)

- *Improve how consumers understand and reduce their risk of cancer and navigate the cancer pathway to access equitable care and have their unique needs met*
- *Improve access to cancer services and care for priority population groups by taking an intersectionality approach*
- *Improve the ability of the cancer system to hear consumer voices to inform their own care, and act on service delivery and system design*

Priority 2: Access across the cancer pathway (for integrated care)

Do you want to give feedback on Priority 2: Access across the cancer pathway (for integrated care)?

- Yes
 No

Question 5: Do you agree or disagree that a priority for the Victorian cancer plan 2024-2028 should be Access across the cancer pathway (for integrated care): Victorians have timely access to high-quality and high-impact prevention, early detection, treatment, clinical trials and support services.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Question 6: Do you agree or disagree that the following opportunities to improve access across the cancer pathway (for integrated care) should be included in the Victorian cancer plan 2024-2028?

An opportunity is a broad theme that has a good chance for improving the priority.

Reduce unwanted variation in care and outcomes across the cancer care pathway.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Provide care closer to home across the cancer pathway where safe to do so, enabled by clear referral pathways between providers.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Contribute to system design for wellbeing, and health system reform directions, to ensure optimal health and wellbeing outcomes.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Question 7: Do you agree or disagree that the following actions to improve access across the cancer pathway (for integrated care) should be included in the Victorian cancer plan 2024-2028?

An action is a detailed activity that can be done to achieve the opportunities.

Increase efforts to reduce the proportion of Victorians diagnosed with potentially preventable cancers.

- Agree
 Disagree

Unsure

Ensure equitable access to screening and diagnostic services for priority populations.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Increased use of risk stratification for timely access to screening services for people with a higher risk of cancer.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Improve planning and access to supportive care, palliative care and end-of-life care to best deliver on person-centred care, taking into account the role of carers and families, cultural, life-course and other population criteria.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Provide services and models of care that are person-centred (including culturally safe and competent) to respond to diverse needs.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Facilitate equitable access to clinical trials to address disparities across priority groups

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Support use of the Cancer Service Capability Framework to ensure safety and quality in cancer service delivery.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Support development and implementation of the National Lung Cancer Screening Program.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Support implementation of the Victorian Aboriginal Cancer Journey Strategy.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Support implementation of the Victorian Aboriginal Health, Medical and Wellbeing Research Accord.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Improve communication about and awareness of financial implications of care across the cancer pathway, including accommodation and travel costs.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Upskill health professionals in rural and regional areas to ensure a skilled workforce where they are needed most.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Support Victoria's regional cancer centres to deliver quality and accessible care closer to home.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Create environments that enable people to eat well and be active across the lifespan, in places where people learn, live, work and play.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Continue to focus on survivorship care including shared care models with primary health and other models of care that improve access to survivorship care.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Question 8: Please add any comments about this priority, the opportunities and the actions.

Limit to 150 words - Please do not include any personal information in your responses that may identify you or another individual.

- It is crucial to note that blood cancers are unlike many solid tumour cancers and are neither preventable nor can they be easily identified through population screening.
- Consistency of care across the country is a central theme of the Leukaemia Foundation's 2020 National Strategic Action Plan for Blood Cancer and our "State of the Nation" reports (2019 and 2023) have found considerable variation in service delivery depending on where the patient lived. Modelling identified that inconsistent treatment is responsible for 13% variation in survival nationally, 8% between states, and 5% between metro and regional/rural areas. These reports also found more support is needed across treatment planning, active treatment and post-treatment stages. The top category identified by patients was 'referrals to patient support organisations'.

Strategic opportunities (from consultation paper)

- *Reduce unwanted variation in care and outcomes across the cancer care pathway*
- *Provide care closer to home across the cancer pathway where safe to do so, enabled by clear referral pathways between providers*
- *Contribute to system design for wellbeing, and health system reform directions, to ensure optimal health and wellbeing outcomes*

Priority 3: Workforce

Do you want to give feedback on Priority 3: Workforce?

- Yes
 No

Question 9: Do you agree or disagree that a priority for the Victorian cancer plan 2024-2028 should be Workforce: Victoria's health workforce is supported to deliver world leading cancer control, services and care

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Question 10: Do you agree or disagree that the following opportunities to support and enhance the workforce should be included in the Victorian cancer plan 2024-2028?

An opportunity is broad theme that has a good chance for improving the priority.

Contribute to the workforce elements of train, recruit and retain to ensure safe, quality care in a person-centred health system.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Leverage new service models to better use skills and experience to enable care.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Question 11: Do you agree or disagree that the following actions to support and enhance the workforce should be included in the Victorian cancer plan 2024-2028?

An action is a detailed activity that can be done to achieve the opportunities.

Strengthen the knowledge and competence of the primary and community care workforce, including allied health professionals, around cancer prevention, early detection and care.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Support health professionals to systematically screen people and improve early diagnosis of cancers.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Create a learning environment for health professionals to analyse and discuss evidence to improve and standardise care.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Strengthen referral pathways to specialist care, including familial cancer centres for inheritable cancers.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Improve workforce knowledge, skills and involvement in providing routine survivorship care across cancer care systems, including enabling consumers to engage in their care as a partner.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Expand end-of-life care and palliative care skills and advance care planning education across the cancer workforce.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Support the cancer research and clinical trial workforces to leverage Commonwealth and industry funding, including increasing the number of PhD-trained clinician researchers across the cancer pathway.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Pilot models of care that deliver effective multidisciplinary care - for example, through refined use of telehealth, and nurse or allied health-led models of care across the care pathway including pre- and post-treatment phases.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Explore opportunities for expanded scope of practice in primary care to support prevention and early detection efforts (e.g. the role of nurses).

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Assess and support the workforce and system requirements to deliver lung cancer screening across the cancer pathway.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Explore opportunities to leverage the prevention and population health workforce in local public health units.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Explore training and upskilling of bi-lingual health professionals and other care givers to support multicultural communities.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Question 12: Please add any comments about this priority, the opportunities and the actions.

Limit to 150 words - Please do not include any personal information in your responses that may identify you or another individual.

- The Leukaemia Foundation's National Strategic Action Plan for Blood Cancers made several recommendations for further enhancing the cancer workforce such as

- 1.6.2 Work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce to undertake a gap review of Indigenous Health Workforce expertise in blood cancers to support culturally sensitive care across all healthcare settings (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous)
- 2.6.1 Define a service standard, informed by OCPs, clinical and diagnostic guidelines and the research roadmap, to determine workforce needs in primary and specialist settings including supportive care.
- 2.6.2 A skills audit of regional and remote workforce requirements.
- 2.6.4 A training and change management strategy aimed at specialist settings, focussed on advances in telehealth, personalised medicine and implications for clinical practice, the roll-out of hospital training, and the use of supportive and palliative care for patients.

Strategic opportunities (from consultation paper)

- *Contribute to the workforce elements of train, recruit and retain to ensure safe, quality care in a person-centred health system*
- *Leverage new service models to better use skills and experience to enable care*

Priority 4: Intelligence, data and technology

Do you want to give feedback on Priority 4: Intelligence, data and technology

- Yes
 No

Question 13: Do you agree or disagree that a priority for the Victorian cancer plan 2024-2028 should be Intelligence: Improve data and intelligence capabilities, and leverage existing assets, technology and research to strengthen the cancer pathway

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Question 14: Do you agree or disagree that the following opportunities to enhance the effective use of data and analysis, system and service models, and technology and research should be included in the Victorian cancer plan 2024-2028?

An opportunity is broad theme that has a good chance for improving the priority.

Ensure better (relevant and timely) access to data.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Improve linked datasets and the sector's capability to respectfully and safely handle data to meet current and future needs.

- Agree

- Disagree
- Unsure

Support translational research and/or quality improvement initiatives that enable equitable and timely access to novel therapies and technologies.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Question 15: Do you agree or disagree that the following actions to enhance the effective use of data and analysis, system and service models, and technology and research should be included in the Victorian cancer plan 2024-2028?

An action is a detailed activity that can be done to achieve the opportunities.

Improve access and use of primary health care data to strengthen, for example, planning and evaluation of early detection and cancer supportive care.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Promote the use of dashboards to ensure easier access to timely and validated data such as the Statewide Cancer Indicator Platform (hosted by the Department of Health).

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Improve access to datasets that align with strategic priorities.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Further evolve monitoring and evaluation frameworks and tools to ensure active monitoring of cancer screening and control efforts

For example: The Victorian cancer plan monitoring and evaluation framework; The Victorian cancer screening framework; The Victorian Cancer Patient Experience Survey.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Unsure

Advocate for better quality and consistency of patient experience and demographic data to be collected and used to support research, planning, service delivery and decision-making, such as data on sex and gender, Aboriginal status, disability status and cultural and linguistic diversity.

- Agree
- Disagree

Unsure

Ensure all relevant data collections are linked and available for analysis (e.g. incorporating a systemic anti-cancer therapy [SACT] minimum dataset, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and other primary care data).

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Address barriers to equitable access of novel therapies.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Facilitate state-wide cancer research collaboration through shared resources, platforms and research infrastructure, data facilitation and partnerships.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Support implementation of gender equity policies in cancer research.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Support the priority actions in the Victorian Aboriginal Cancer Journey Strategy that focus on achieving equitable access to treatment, therapies and clinical trials.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Support implementation of the Victorian Aboriginal Health, Medical and Wellbeing Research Accord to facilitate culturally safe and ethical Aboriginal research.

- Agree
 Disagree
 Unsure

Question 16: Please add any comments about this priority, the opportunities and the actions.

Limit to 150 words - Please do not include any personal information in your responses that may identify you or another individual.

- In Australia today, access to genomic diagnostics is limited and privately funded, creating barriers to equitable access, and slowing the development of data to inform research efforts. To support improvements in clinical practice and blood cancer research efforts, precision medicine (with genomic testing as required) should be made the standard of care.
- Access to clinical trials is often limited particularly for patients in rural and regional areas, the distances and cost involved in participating in trials may be prohibitive. Data show there is significant latent demand for regional clinical trials and tele-trials; to date, access to clinical trials in regional areas has been rate-limited by immature regional cancer centre services, under-estimation of the workforce requirements at regional trial sites to enable the safe and effective roll-out of tele-trial models, high regional workforce turnover, and administrative inefficiencies associated with ethics and governance approvals for each site.

Strategic opportunities (from consultation paper)

- *Ensure better (relevant and timely) access to data*
- *Improve linked datasets and the sector's capability to respectfully and safely handle data to meet current and future needs*
- *Support translational research and/or quality improvement initiatives that enable equitable and timely access to novel therapies and technologies*

Question 17: Please include any additional comments you would like to make for the development of the Victorian cancer plan 2024-2028. This may include other priorities that should be in the cancer plan and/or how to ensure equity of cancer outcomes for individuals and communities.

Limit to 200 words - Please do not include any personal information in your responses that may identify you or another individual.

Due to the nature of blood cancers, different health initiatives are required: it is access to accurate and timely diagnostics that is fundamental to the treatment, care and survival for people living with blood cancer, where timely and accurate diagnosis leads to the treatment pathway and specialist care that will offer the best survival and quality of life outcomes for patients. In the absence of specific prevention programs and programs for early screening/detection (as these are not possible/feasible), public policy initiatives are required that focus on achieving nationally consistent best practice treatment and care including early and accurate diagnosis and access to precision medicine, access to new treatments and ongoing advances in research for a cure.