Australian Cancer Plan 10-year ambition

A modern, fit for purpose cancer control infrastructure, advanced by the innovative application of technology, research, and data to improve Australia’s cancer outcomes.

National Cancer Data Framework – Goal

A harmonised, fit for purpose, sustainable cancer data ecosystem that includes population-wide cancer and non-cancer data across the cancer continuum and is used for improved cancer control in prevention and screening, service delivery, clinical care, and research to drive more equitable and improved cancer outcomes.

Guiding Principles

Person-centred and equity focused: Data are used to provide person-centred treatment and care, delivering the best outcomes and improved equity for all Australians, focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other priority population groups.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data sovereignty: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership is integral in data collection, management, and use of Indigenous data (Closing the Gap, Priority Reform 4, Shared access to data and information at a regional level)

Cancer data as an asset: Acknowledging Australia requires a cancer data ecosystem that is accessible through modern infrastructure, enables collaboration to inform policy and health service delivery, drives economic value, supports innovation, and improves cancer outcomes for all Australians.

Existing strengths: Strategic objectives and priority actions align with, build on and add to initiatives and innovations in policy approaches to data capture and sharing that can be harnessed and scaled.

Data safety, trust and transparency: Personal data are protected, and public reporting is transparent, helping to build community trust in reporting on progress in cancer outcomes and effectively addressing inequities.

Collaborative, timely and accessible: Enable collaborative efforts across the whole cancer sector by making cancer data timely and accessible through modern infrastructure and streamlined data governance.

Enabling culture: Enable data access, embrace data-driven decision-making, and promote data collection as part of patient care through seamless integration into clinician workflows.

Strategic Objectives and Implementation Priorities

1. A mature performance reporting system

Transparent reporting of cancer control indicators will drive improvements in prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and care. Australia’s capacity to use data to reduce the incidence of cancer and improve survival from cancer is reliant on public trust that data are collected, stored and used safely.

1.1 Enable Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Governance for improved Indigenous community outcomes.
1.2 Build and maintain public trust in the data system.
1.3 Establish a robust cancer control monitoring and benchmarking system to drive optimal care.

2. Sustainable and fit-for-purpose data system

Foster a sustainable and fit-for-purpose data system that enables the timely collection of health and population data inclusive of cancer and non-cancer data, collected across the ecosystem using nationally consistent standards to facilitate system interoperability and greater information exchange across the continuum of care and across jurisdictions.

2.1 Embed and implement the governance of Indigenous data into the cancer data ecosystem.
2.2 Improve the timeliness of cancer data collection and reporting at the national level.
2.3 Strengthen existing mechanisms to ensure consistent and valid collection of key cancer data within Australian Cancer Registries.
2.4 Advance the collection of cancer stage at diagnosis data as a key equity measure.
2.5 Agree and prioritise national data gaps
2.6 Agree on a National Cancer Control Reporting Framework and collect a standardised national cancer data to support reporting on priority needs, including optimal cancer treatment and care, equity and patient outcomes and experiences.
2.7 Enhance the capture of structured pathology and radiology reporting, for consistent data capture from source systems.
2.8 Explore the potential for structured clinical reporting of key data items within electronic medical records.

3. User-centred, integrated and accessible data

Deliver a user-centred, integrated and accessible data system through the timely, streamlined and safe promotion of trusted, transparent, and advanced data-sharing arrangements with systems at national and jurisdictional levels.

3.1 Ensure enduring data linkages and associated access as well as research is overseen with appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ethical practices
3.2 Enhance data access through effective and efficient data governance and streamlined ethics approvals.
3.3 Adopt a harmonised approach to enduring integrated data assets that safely enable rapid access by accredited end users, while ensuring data safety, quality and reliability.

Enablers

Culture change

Technology and innovation

Data workforce capacity and capability

Effective and efficient governance