



Australian Cancer Plan - Public Consultation Survey

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Australian Cancer Plan - Public Consultation

Q.1 I am responding as a(n):

- A.
- Person who has experienced cancer
 - Family member or carer of a person who has experienced cancer
 - General practitioner
 - Cancer specialist
 - Other medical specialist
 - Nurse
 - Allied health professional
 - Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Worker or Health Practitioner
 - Researcher or academic
 - Patient advocate
 - Industry organisation
 - Non-government organisation
 - Government organisation
 - Member of the general public
 - Prefer not to answer
 - Other

Mental Health Consumer and Carer Advocacy Peak

Q.2 Do you or your organisation represent or identify as:

- A.
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual (LGBTIQA) people
 - Older Australians
 - Adolescents and/or young adults
 - Children
 - People from Culturally or Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds
 - People living with disability
 - People living with a mental health condition
 - People living in a rural or remote area
 - People living in a low socioeconomic circumstance
 - None of the above
 - Prefer not to answer

Q.3 Have you been involved in any previous consultations to support the development the draft Australian Cancer Plan?

- A. Yes
 No

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Maximising Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

**Q.1 The overarching ACP vision is achieving world-class cancer outcomes and experience for all Australians.
Is the ambition statement for Strategic Objective 1: Maximising Cancer Prevention and Early Detection ambitious enough?**

- A. Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

Q.2 To what extent do you agree that the proposed goals and actions for Strategic Objective 1: Maximising Cancer Prevention and Early Detection collectively ensure the ambition statement is achieved?

- A. Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: Enhanced Consumer Experience

**Q.1 The overarching ACP vision is achieving world-class cancer outcomes and experience for all Australians.
Is the ambition statement for Strategic Objective 2: Enhanced Consumer Experience ambitious enough?**

- A. Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

Q.2 To what extent do you agree that the proposed goals and actions for Strategic Objective 2: Enhanced Consumer Experience collectively ensure the ambition statement is achieved?

- A. Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: World Class Health Systems for Optimal Care

- Q.1 The overarching ACP vision is achieving world-class cancer outcomes and experience for all Australians. Is the ambition statement for Strategic Objective 3: World Class Health Systems for Optimal Care ambitious enough?**
- A. Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree
- Q.2 To what extent do you agree that the proposed goals and actions for Strategic Objective 3: World Class Health Systems for Optimal Care collectively ensure the ambition statement is achieved?**
- A. Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: Strong and Dynamic Foundations

- Q.1 The overarching ACP vision is achieving world-class cancer outcomes and experience for all Australians. Is the ambition statement for Strategic Objective 4: Strong and Dynamic Foundations ambitious enough?**
- A. Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree
- Q.2 To what extent do you agree that the proposed goals and actions for Strategic Objective 4: Strong and Dynamic Foundations collectively ensure the ambition statement is achieved?**
- A. Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: Workforce to Transform the Delivery of Cancer Care

**Q.1 The overarching ACP vision is achieving world-class cancer outcomes and experience for all Australians.
Is the ambition statement for Strategic Objective 5: Workforce to Transform the Delivery of Cancer Care ambitious enough?**

- A. Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

Q.2 To what extent do you agree that the proposed goals and actions for Strategic Objective 5: Workforce to Transform the Delivery of Cancer Care collectively ensure the ambition statement is achieved?

- A. Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6: Achieving Equity in Cancer Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

**Q.1 The overarching ACP vision is achieving world-class cancer outcomes and experience for all Australians.
Is the ambition statement for Strategic Objective 6: Achieving Equity in Cancer Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People ambitious enough?**

- A. Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

Q.2 To what extent do you agree that the proposed goals and actions for Strategic Objective 6: Achieving Equity in Cancer Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People collectively ensure the ambition statement is achieved?

- A. Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

Q.1 Specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Achieving equity in cancer outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is a priority of the ACP. Reflecting on the ACP overall, to what extent do you agree that this plan will make a difference to the cancer experiences and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the next 10 years?

- A. Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

Q.2 Does the ACP resonate with you and your perspective of cancer control?

- A. Yes
 No
 Unsure

Q.3 Is there anything missing from the draft ACP?

- A. Yes
 No
 Unsure

Please tell us why you gave this response. What improvements can be made?

My concern relates to Strategic Objectives 1 (Prevention and Early Detection) and 5 (Workforce). Research in 2021 led by Lived Experience Australia (a leading mental health consumer-carer advocacy peak) in collaboration with Equally Well surveyed mental health consumers and family carers nationally about their experiences of being asked about their physical health by GPs and other health professionals. Our findings clearly showed that health professionals were failing to ask about cancer screening checks for this disadvantaged population, with almost half of respondents saying their health professional had not asked about basic cancer screening. As we raised in our earlier submission to the Cancer Strategy, this is likely contributing to the higher rates of earlier death for people with mental health conditions, especially those with severe mental health conditions whose health professionals may be so focused on 'seeing' their mental health symptoms that they fail to attend to their physical health. We outlined the potential cultural and discriminatory underpinnings that may contribute to this for this population. The draft Cancer Plan's goals and actions seem to focus on what happens once the presence of cancer is known, that the person has come to the health professional seeking screening, and how the workforce is engaged in treatment of cancer once known, etc. However, the issue that seems to be missing is that the workforce and system must be more active and informed about undertaking cancer screening routinely and 'in-time' in the first place for people with mental health conditions. We understand that, for many, this does not occur or occurs late in the cancer trajectory when treatments are less likely to be effective and prognosis is more dire. The LEA/Equally Well Report can be found here: <https://www.livedexperienceaustralia.com.au/physical-health-research>

Q.4 Optional: Upload any relevant documents here (if applicable).

A.