

Bridging the Gap: Building a Multidisciplinary Working Group on Immunotherapy-Induced Adrenal Insufficiency

Integrating Endocrinology Nursing, Melanoma Nursing and Patient Advocacy

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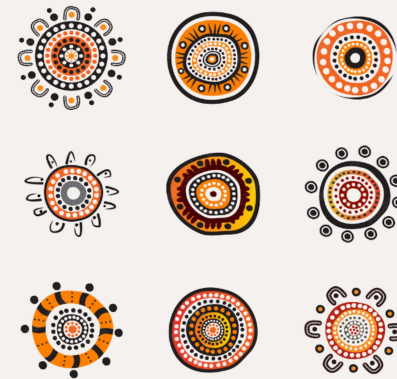
Australian Addison's Disease Association Inc (AADAI)

Waikato Hospital, Te Whatu Ora, Health New Zealand

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge Traditional Custodians of the land on which I am presenting today, the Whadjuk Nyoongar people and pay my respects to Elders past and present.



Acknowledgement of Lived Experience

I gratefully acknowledge all people affected by melanoma who have shared their lived experiences to inform and guide our work. Their courage, insights and willingness to contribute to our work, provides invaluable perspectives to help drive meaningful change and improve the support we provide.



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Contribution of Cancer Nurses

CNSA Position Statement

- Cancer nurses play a critical role across the cancer care continuum
- Scope of practice continues to expand with increasing treatment complexity
- Central to delivering safe, evidence-based, person-centred care
- Leadership in education, coordination, and supportive care
- This project reflects CNSA's vision for capability building and improved outcomes

Elevate Cancer Nursing: • Innovate • Integrate • Educate • Advocate

Reference | Contribution of Cancer Nurses to Improve Outcomes for Individuals Impacted by Cancer CNSA Position Statement | © Cancer Nurses Society of Australia 2024



elevate
cancer nursing
innovate | integrate | educate | advocate



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Background: Changing Landscape of Melanoma Care and Why this Matters



Breakthroughs

- ✓ Immune checkpoint inhibitors
- ✓ Improved survival
- ✓ Expanded treatment options

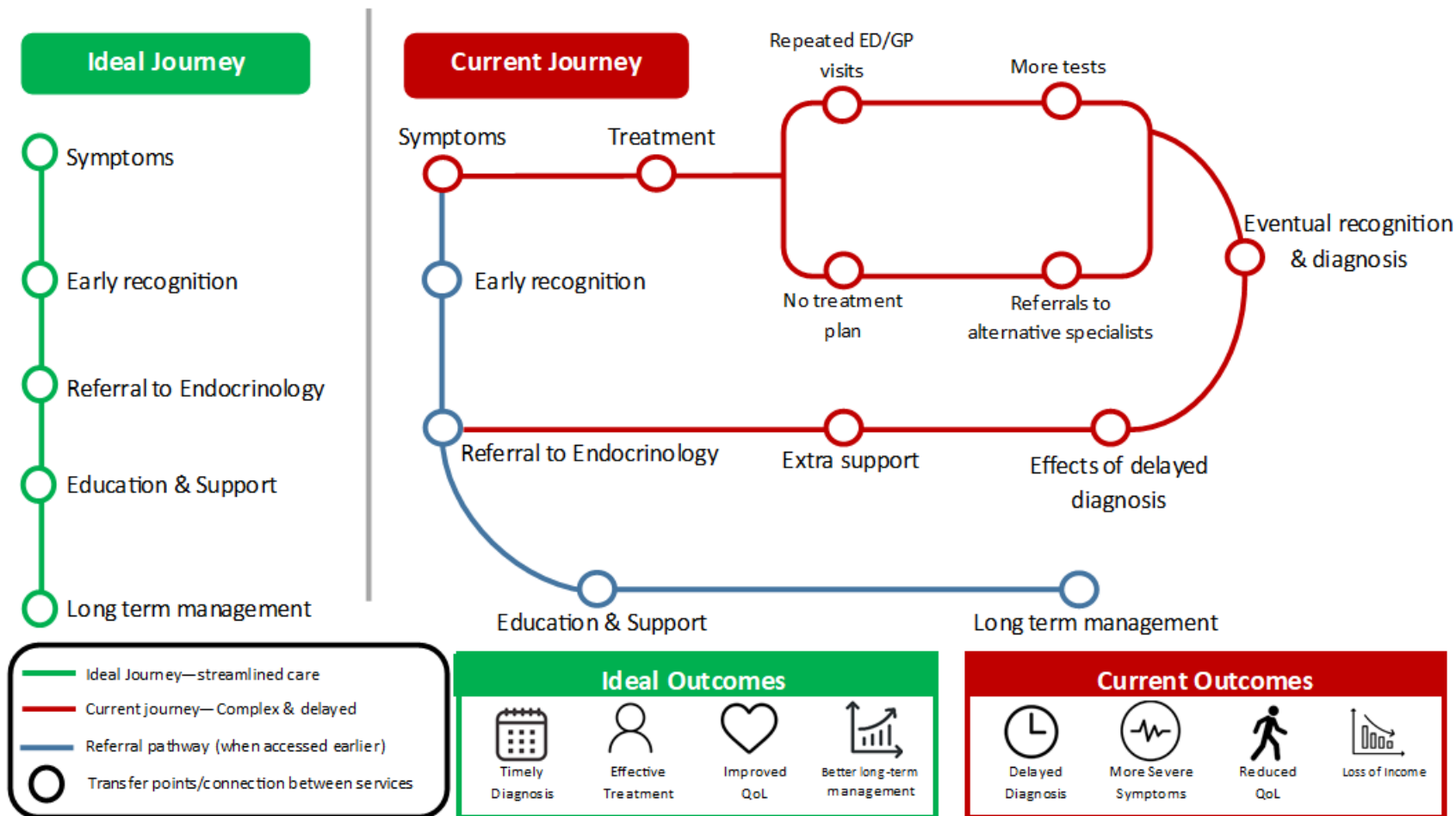


New Complexities

- Rise in endocrine toxicities
- Adrenal insufficiency challenges
- Need for coordinated care

The Adrenal Insufficiency & Immunotherapy Patient Journey

Comparing the ideal journey with the current reality



What We Heard From Patients: Key Themes



Confusion

“I didn’t know what
my symptoms meant.”



Fear

“I’m scared of
having a crisis.”



Access Barriers

“I couldn’t get in to see
an endocrinologist.”



Education Gaps

“No one told me about
sick-day plans.”

The Gap in Current Practice



No unified clinical framework for immunotherapy-induced adrenal insufficiency



Patients report inconsistent information and support



Nurses often feel under-prepared to recognise and manage symptoms



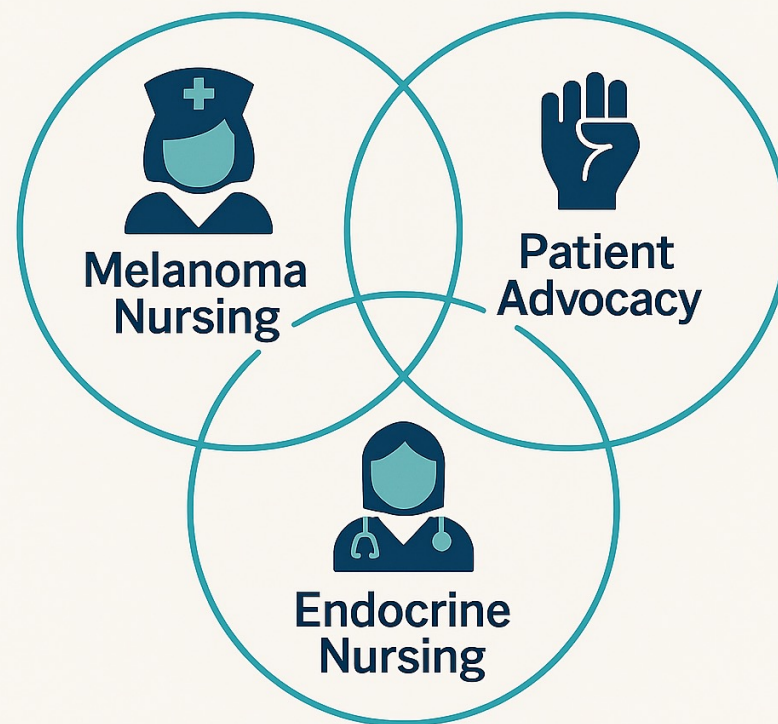
Fragmented care across oncology, endocrinology, and primary care

Why Multidisciplinary Collaboration is Essential

Different specialties hold different pieces of the puzzle

Develop a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to:

- Improve early recognition of adrenal insufficiency
- Strengthen nursing confidence and capability
- Enhance patient support and education
- Integrate lived experience into clinical practice



Establishing the Working Group

Collaboration between:

- Australian Addison's Disease Association
- Endocrine Nurses Society of Australasia
- Melanoma Patients Australia



Structured forum for:

- Shared learning
- Co-design of resources
- Nurse education
- Collective problem-solving

Method: Multidisciplinary Co-Design

- Regular meetings to identify gaps and priorities
- Review of patient experiences and clinical challenges
- Mapping of current care pathways
- Development of shared educational goals
- Integration of endocrinology and oncology perspectives

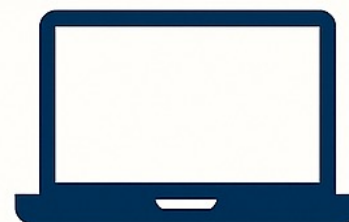
Key Outputs



**Patient
Resources**



**Support
Group**

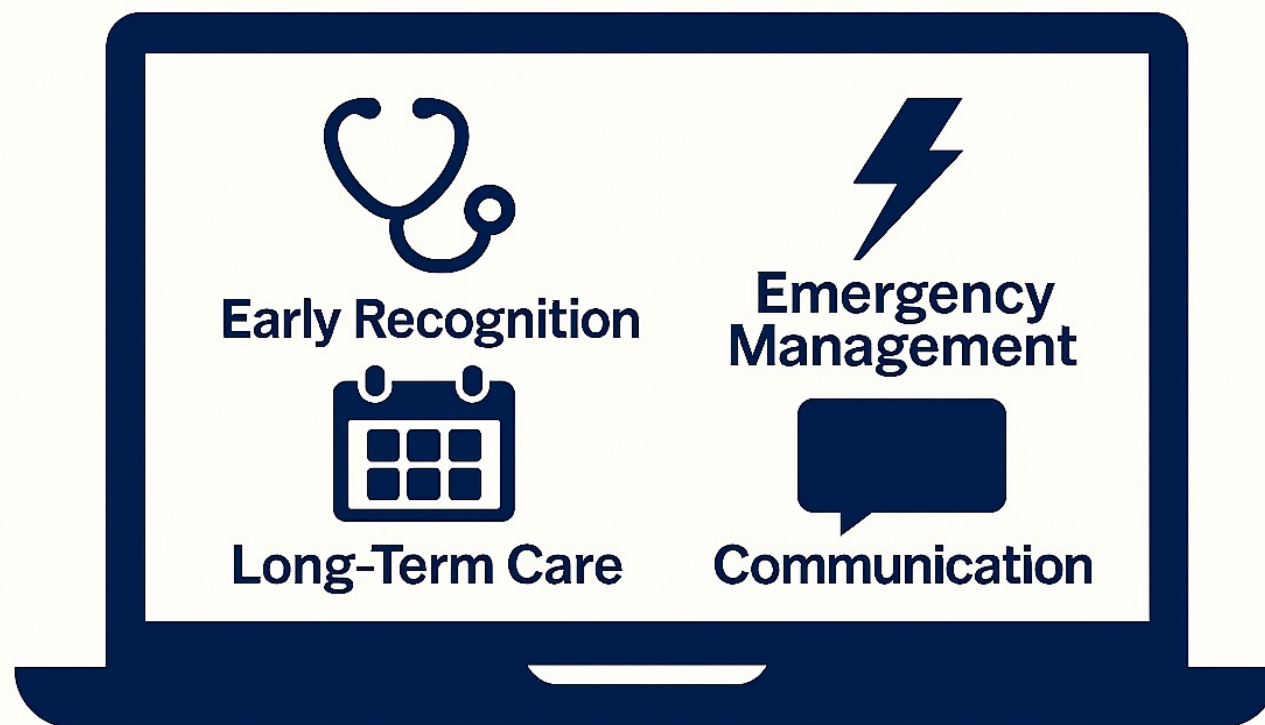


**Educational
Webinars**



**Priority
Areas**

Nursing Education and Capability Building



Impact to Date



Improved
cross-disciplinary
communication



More consistent patient
messaging

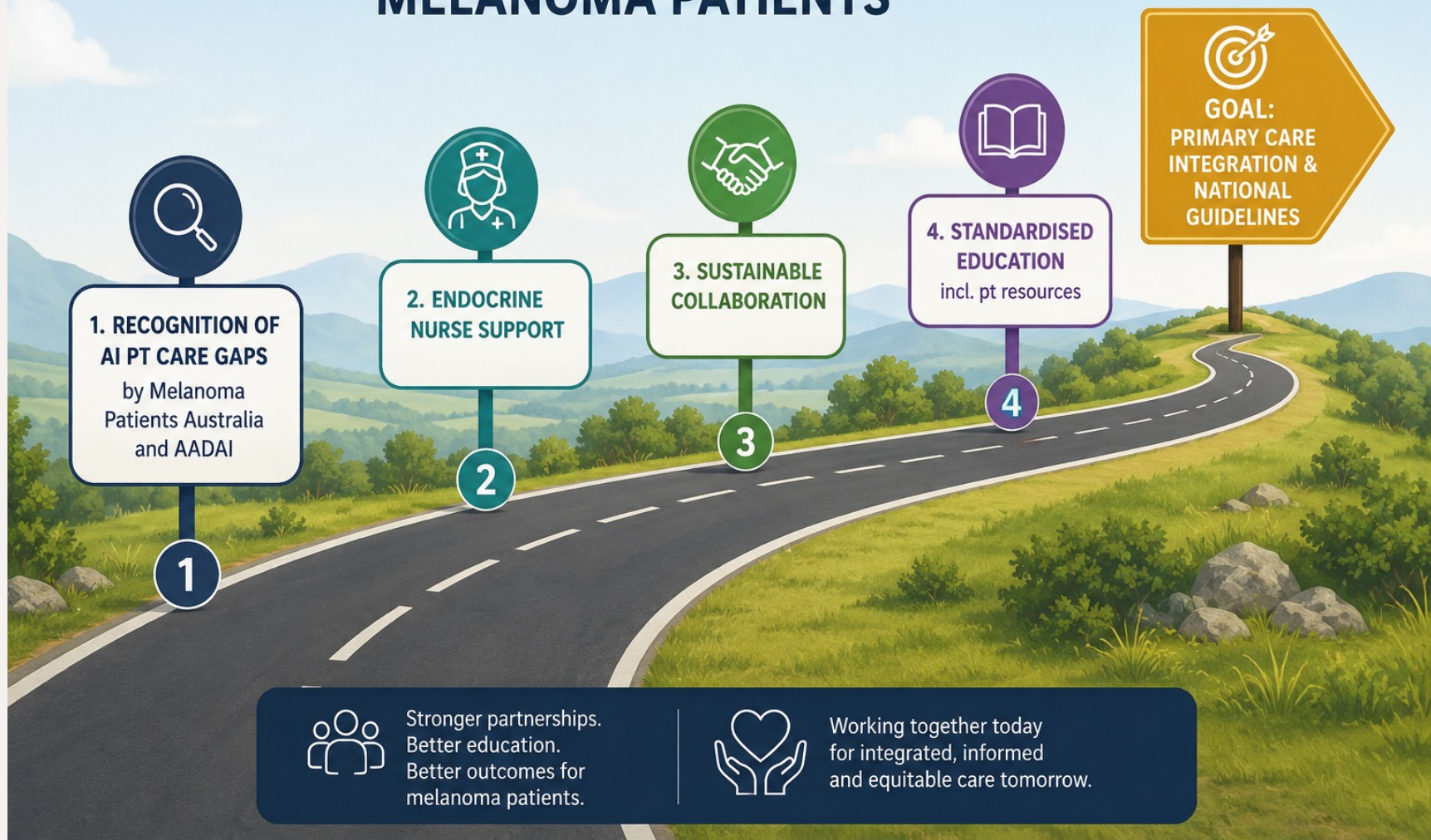


Increased awareness of
adrenal insufficiency among
melanoma nurses



Stronger integration
between clinical and
advocacy groups

ROADMAP TO BETTER AI SUPPORT FOR MELANOMA PATIENTS



Future Directions and Opportunities

- Potential for dedicated endocrine nurse support
- Build a sustainable model for ongoing collaboration
- Potential for national guidelines
- Potential for international collaboration
- Encouragement to adopt resources
- Importance of early recognition
- Shared responsibility for patient safety

Conclusion

- Immunotherapy-induced adrenal insufficiency requires coordinated, multidisciplinary care.
- Nurses play a central role in early recognition, education, and ongoing support.
- This Working Group demonstrates the value of integrating clinical expertise with patient advocacy.
- The initiative is improving confidence, consistency, and patient outcomes. We invite broader engagement from the endocrine and oncology communities.

Connect

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