



# AUSTRALIAN CANCER NURSING AND NAVIGATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

ACNNP@health.gov.au



Welcome to the third edition of the Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program (ACNNP) Newsletter!

As the program continues to expand cancer services, we are thrilled to see strengthening connections and increased collaboration amongst our ACNNP service delivery partners and the broader sector. The ACNNP's tiered model of support acknowledges that individuals will need different levels of support at different times, which makes integration of services critical.

This newsletter includes exciting updates on new Cancer Care Nurses being placed in health and hospital settings around Australia, and stakeholder engagement on the enhanced cancer navigation services.

These newsletters are distributed quarterly, and we welcome individuals and organisations being added to our distribution list. If you would like to receive future newsletters or have any feedback on how we can maximise the impact of the newsletters, please reach out to [ACNNP@health.gov.au](mailto:ACNNP@health.gov.au).

We also encourage you to share the newsletters with your broader networks to help raise awareness about ACNNP services.

Happy reading!

## PROGRAM UPDATE

### CNSA 2025 Congress

The 2025 Cancer Nursing Society of Australia (CNSA) and International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (INCC) Congress was held in Adelaide in June. The event provided a great opportunity for service delivery partners to connect with each other, as well as raise awareness of their services with the broader sector. Cancer nurses play a critical role in supporting patients, families and carers through a cancer diagnosis, and it was wonderful to see such passion and genuine commitment to improving cancer outcomes for Australians.

The Department would like to thank CNSA for hosting a breakfast session for the Cancer Patient Support Program delivery partners to share their projects and network. Positive feedback has been received from participants, noting the valuable connections formed as a result of this session.

### Program Communications and Engagement

The Department is exploring updates to its website to ensure users can easily understand:

- the intent of the Program
- how to access services under the Program
- how to navigate to the service they need

At the heart of this work is a commitment to empowering those impacted by cancer and those who care for them to access the support they need, when they need it.

## SPECIALIST SUPPORT SERVICE UPDATE

Specialist Support Services are continuing to explore how they can enhance existing services. This is being informed by consultation with stakeholders and feedback from service users.

A number of service delivery partners attended the recent CNSA INCC Congress to connect with the nursing sector and raise awareness of specialist support services available. It is critical to raise awareness of these support services with not only people impacted by cancer, but treating health professionals, to ensure access can be made as early as possible following a cancer diagnosis.

The Specialist Support Service Working Group met on 29 May 2025. Agenda items included planning for future data reporting and an update from Cancer Council on their stakeholder engagement for the design of the future-state navigation service.

There was also a deep-dive discussion on approaches to First Nations service delivery including an update from the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and the Lung Foundation Australia, who worked closely with First Nations stakeholders in the design of the new National Lung Cancer Screening Program.

The conversation will continue at the next meeting following very positive feedback from members.

## NURSING SERVICE UPDATE

The McGrath Foundation (McGrath) is developing a 'Find A Nurse' tool that will have the ability to include information on all specialist cancer care nurses and nursing services employed through hospitals, community services and the cancer sector more broadly. This will include Commonwealth-funded and other cancer nurses. Project planning/scoping activities to inform development of the tool commenced in July 2025.

The co-design process for the McGrath Model of Care for Cancer Care Nursing is continuing. Building on earlier design consultations with clinicians, and people with an experience of cancer and their carers, a consensus approach is underway to determine the final components of the Model.

Nurse placement discussions, applying a tiered EOI process, are in progress with Health Services. Health services have been invited to inform nurse placements, including cancer stream requirements and timing.

As of 7 August 2025, 41 Cancer Care Nurses have been placed across a range of cancer streams, with many other positions in various stages of contracting and recruitment.

## NAVIGATION SERVICE UPDATE

### Cancer Hub

Cancer Hub (Canteen, Camp Quality and Redkite) continues to support families with children or young people aged 0–25 who are impacted by cancer. In 2024–25, the Cancer Hub provided 13,438 occasions of navigation support and 2,466 occasions of counselling support. Nearly 2,000 referrals were made to a wide range of services and supports to ensure families received the assistance they needed.

In the last quarter, Cancer Hub welcomed an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Navigator and Cultural Advisor to the team. Around 6% of all referrals identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, making this role an important step in ensuring culturally safe and appropriate support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

## NAVIGATION SERVICE (Cont.)

### Cancer Council

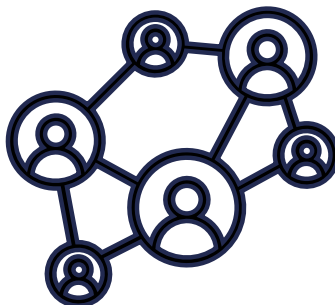
Cancer Council Australia welcomes Kim Whiteley as Head, First Nations Strategy and Engagement. Kim has cultural connections to the Warramunga, Bogan River and Binjang, Macquarie River peoples of the Wiradjuri Nation and brings deep expertise from across the health and First Nations sectors.

In this role, Kim will support the integration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, cultural safety, and community-informed design across the Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program. This will help ensure that Cancer Council's navigation services are better equipped to meet the needs of First Nations people, families, and communities.

Since completion of its initial baseline analysis and consultations, Cancer Council has developed a draft service concept and is starting the co-design and consultation phase throughout Jul – Sept.

This phase builds on early consultations with a specific focus on engaging with priority populations and stakeholder groups to build in and identify solutions that enable equity and access. This will include co-design workshops with users of the service including those with lived experience and priority population backgrounds as well as sector stakeholders, ACNNP program partners, affiliates and consumer representatives. This will ensure the service plan is inclusive, culturally safe, and responsive to the diverse needs of the community.

A website has been developed for ongoing updates, visit [www.cancer.org.au/about-us/partnerships/navigation-updates](http://www.cancer.org.au/about-us/partnerships/navigation-updates) and a centralised email for stakeholder enquiries established - [navigationengagement@cancer.org.au](mailto:navigationengagement@cancer.org.au).



## ONE MINUTE WITH...

**Belinda Kendall, Helpline Nurse Manager at Head and Neck Cancer Australia (HANCA)**



**HEAD & NECK CANCER**  
AUSTRALIA  
ENGAGE • EDUCATE • EMPOWER

### Tell us a bit about yourself?

I'm the Helpline Nurse Manager at HANCA, where I lead a dedicated team providing navigational support to people affected by Head and Neck Cancer (HNC). Through our national HNC Helpline, I offer tailored guidance to patients, carers and health professionals, helping them navigate complex care pathways. I have over 20 years' experience in oncology nursing across both medical and radiation oncology.

### What are you most excited to see the ACNNP achieve and why?

As a nurse working within the ACNNP, what inspires me most is the powerful collaboration between passionate organisations, all united by a shared mission: to provide comprehensive care and support to anyone affected by cancer. Being part of this collective effort is deeply humbling and a constant source of motivation. One of the most impactful outcomes of the HNC Helpline so far has been the increased access to counselling services, tailored specifically to the HNC experience.

### Why is Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month so important?

July is HNC Awareness Month culminating in World HNC Day on 27 July. It's a vital time to start a conversation and spotlight the unique challenges following treatment for HNC, including difficulties with speech, facial disfigurement, and long-term impacts on a person's ability to eat and drink.

### Contact:

[www.headandneckcancer.org.au](http://www.headandneckcancer.org.au)  
Telephone: 1300 424 848

## NATIONAL LUNG CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

The National Lung Cancer Screening Program (the program) is now available for eligible Australians to access free lung cancer screening. Australians may be eligible to access lung cancer screening if they:

- are aged between 50 and 70 years, and
- have no signs or symptoms suggestive of lung cancer (for example unexplained persistent cough, coughing up blood, shortness of breath), and
- smoke tobacco cigarettes or have a smoking history (having quit in the past 10 years), and
- have a cigarette smoking history of at least 30 pack-years.

### For Potential Participants

If you think you are eligible to participate in the program, talk to your local healthcare provider, like your GP or nurse practitioner. They will assess your eligibility, provide a [National Lung Cancer Screening Program low-dose CT scan request](#) if you meet the criteria and will enrol you in the program. There are fact sheets, brochures and FAQs for potential participants available in numerous languages at: [National Lung Cancer Screening Program – Resources for the public | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#).

### For Healthcare Professionals

The primary care sector will play a critical role in the program. Healthcare professionals, including GPs and nurse practitioners will be the front-door to access the program, including assessing eligibility, providing [National Lung Cancer Screening Program low-dose CT scan requests](#), enrolling participants in the National Cancer Screening Register (NCSR), and management of results.

There are fact sheets, FAQs, CPD accredited eModules available to help healthcare participants and their practices to deliver the NLCSP – available at [National Lung Cancer Screening Program – Resources for the health sector | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#). There is also a healthcare provider toolkit available to help you promote and implement the program, visit [www.health.gov.au/nlcsp-hcp-toolkit](http://www.health.gov.au/nlcsp-hcp-toolkit) to find out more!

## OTHER NEWS

- More than 3.6 million Australians live with chronic pain. National Pain Week was from 21-27 July 2025. You can get involved in the work of Chronic Pain Australia by joining their [community](#). Their website contains a collection of resources to support people living with chronic pain, their families and carers. Connect with support services and community that is right for you.
- The Will Norman Nurse Webinar on Neuroendocrine Cancer will be held online on 17th September 2025, featuring a free 1.5-hour educational session followed by a 30-minute live round table discussion. Presented by NeuroEndocrine Cancer Australia, UK, and New Zealand, the webinar will take place at 5pm AEST/8am UK time (BST)/ 7pm NZST, with the event link provided upon registration. Register now: [Will Norman Nurse Webinar on Neuroendocrine Cancer - NeuroEndocrine Cancer Australia](#)
- Empower your patients—start the bowel screening conversation today! Bowel cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Australia, yet it's only the fourth most diagnosed. The good news? Over 90% of cases can be successfully treated if found early. To help you make a difference, the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program Learning Hub, hosted by GPEX, is now live. This free, online resource is designed to support healthcare professionals to have effective screening conversations with patients.

### What's Inside the Learning Hub?

- CPD-accredited training and events—available nationwide and online.
- Downloadable resources and up-to-date clinical guidance.
- Practical tools to help boost screening participation.

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your practice and help save lives. Explore the hub and register today at [www.gpex.com.au/nbcsp-education](http://www.gpex.com.au/nbcsp-education).

## KEY DATES

- Dry July (July)
- Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month (July)
- Daffodil Day (21 August)
- Prostate Cancer Awareness Month (September)
- Gynaecological Awareness Month (September)
- Blood Cancer Awareness Month (September)
- Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (September)
- Women's Health Week (1-5 September)

## SPOTLIGHT ON...

### CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, a time to show your support for the 74,000 children, young people and parents who have their world turned upside down by a cancer diagnosis in the family every year. In addition to making treatment decisions, families impacted by cancer often face many other challenges such as financial pressures, accommodation needs and parenting arrangements. Dealing with the widespread impact of cancer is often overwhelming and can take a significant toll on the mental health and wellbeing of every family member, not just the person diagnosed.

While there are many cancer support organisations providing great services, it can be hard for families to navigate that complexity. When you're already dealing with the turmoil of cancer, finding support shouldn't be another challenge on the list. That's why Canteen, Camp Quality and Redkite work in partnership to deliver [Cancer Hub](#) and help families impacted by cancer with children aged 0-25 more easily access the support they need, when they need it. Through Cancer Hub's intake and navigation team, families are connected with relevant Canteen, Camp Quality, Redkite and other support services, depending on each person's individual needs. Visit [cancerhub.org.au](http://cancerhub.org.au) or call **1800 431 312** to find out more.