



Background

What are the optimal care pathways (OCPs?)

- The OCPs are a framework for the delivery of consistent, safe, high-quality, and evidence-based care for people with cancer. There are both cancer-type and population-based OCPs.
- They guide cancer care from prevention and early detection through to recovery, living with chronic disease, or end-of-life care.
- They are a key deliverable of the Australian Cancer Plan.
- The OCPs set expectations on what current best practice looks like. They do not replace person-centred approaches that prioritise an individual's values, goals, and preferences.
- You can access current OCPs via this link: <https://www.cancer.org.au/health-professionals/optimal-cancer-care-pathways>

What is the scope OCP for people with disability currently in development?

- People with disability experience disparities in health outcomes ranging from prevention to end-of-life care. This new Optimal Care Pathway will address unique barriers faced by people with disability, promoting equitable access to high-quality cancer care.
- The OCP is being developed specifically for those who have a pre-existing disability prior to a cancer diagnosis.
- The OCP for people with disability aims to address the following;
 - a. The interplay of the social model of disability and the medical model
 - b. Align with existing national strategies related to people with disability in Australia, including Australian Disability Strategy (ADS) and the National Autism Strategy.
 - c. Emphasise the unique profile of each type of disability throughout, including
 - i. intellectual disability

- ii. physical disability
 - iii. mental illness
 - iv. acquired brain injury
 - v. developmental disability, including autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
 - vi. learning difficulties and disorders
- d. Ensure accessibility reflects all elements that enable a person to engage fully and equally, including physical, digital, social, informational.

What information are we seeking?

- We are seeking insights and examples from key stakeholders with expertise and experience to help guide the development of the Optimal Care Pathway.
- We ask that responses are as specific as possible, providing real life examples wherever appropriate. It is requested that the disability type or settings are specified wherever relevant.
- Answers are focussed on solutions or examples of current best practice, rather than problems or barriers.