

Improving outcomes for Australians with lung cancer

Australia's biggest cancer killer

Lung cancer causes **ALMOST 20%** OF ALL CANCER DEATHS

More than breast, prostate & ovarian cancer combined

THE CHANCES OF SURVIVING FOR 5 YEARS AFTER A LUNG CANCER DIAGNOSIS ARE EXTREMELY POOR:



15% for any stage of disease

1 in 100 for advanced disease

7% among the Indigenous community

IN 2016 AN ESTIMATED 9,000 AUSTRALIANS WILL DIE FROM LUNG CANCER



EQUIVALENT TO 25 PEOPLE EVERY DAY!

Lung cancer is unfairly stigmatised

AUSTRALIANS HAD THE LEAST SYMPATHY, (out of 15 nations surveyed)

FOR PEOPLE DIAGNOSED WITH LUNG CANCER, BECAUSE OF ITS ASSOCIATION WITH TOBACCO SMOKING



BUT...

1 in 3

women diagnosed with lung cancer has never smoked

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE CONTRIBUTES TO

29% OF LUNG CANCERS IN MEN



HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS UNDERESTIMATE SURVIVAL RATES FOR LUNG CANCER AND THE LIKELY BENEFIT OF CHEMOTHERAPY

The negative attitudes and stereotypes experienced by patients with lung cancer



HAVE BEEN COMPARED TO THOSE WITH HIV/AIDS, MENTAL ILLNESS AND OBESITY

PUBLIC SUPPORT IS POOR. Few people:

Volunteer their time or donate to lung cancer

Support more research funding for lung cancer

Compared with other commonly diagnosed cancers, research funding for lung cancer is low:



LESS THAN FIVE CENTS



OF EVERY CANCER RESEARCH DOLLAR IS SPENT ON LUNG CANCER

It's time to act

RAISE the profile of lung cancer & REDUCE the stigma



MAKE EARLY DETECTION & SCREENING FOR LUNG CANCER A PRIORITY

IMPROVE ACCESS TO BEST PRACTICE CARE for all patients with lung cancer



INCREASE research funding for lung cancer

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT - visit:

www.lungfoundation.com.au/lung-cancer-call-to-action



LUNG FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA

"When you can't breathe... nothing else matters"®

Improving outcomes for Australians with lung cancer

Calls to Action

Raise the profile and reduce the stigma of lung cancer

Lung cancer doesn't discriminate and neither should we. We need to challenge the stereotypes that surround lung cancer and raise awareness of its human impact, to ensure equitable and compassionate care for all patients with lung cancer.

- Government to fund public health campaigns that: raise awareness about the seriousness of lung cancer and its impact on our community; discourage smoking without demonising the person; and encourage smokers to seek medical help early without fear of discrimination.
- Community leaders, the media and celebrities to lend their voice and support to challenge the stereotypes surrounding lung cancer.

Prioritise early detection efforts where cure is most likely to be achieved

The health burden of lung cancer in Australia will only be reduced through early diagnosis and action on screening. Primary care is critical in helping identify patients with the earliest symptoms or signs of lung cancer; and screening is the best opportunity we have to reduce deaths from lung cancer.

- Government to fund a national public and healthcare professional symptom awareness campaign based on Lung Foundation Australia's Lung Health Checklist and focused on the importance of cough as a symptom.
- Healthcare professionals to place a higher priority on considering lung cancer when assessing patients with symptoms – particularly cough.
- Government to rapidly implement a national screening strategy.

Improve access to best practice care for all patients with lung cancer

Improving outcomes for patients with lung cancer requires ensuring all patients have early access to specialised care services, whoever they are and wherever they live. Modernisation of the regulatory and reimbursement system must be a priority today; otherwise we will never be able to provide the best treatments for the patients of tomorrow.

- Cancer Australia to disseminate learnings from the Lung Cancer Demonstration Project, including clear minimum standards, to national lung multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) in order to address variations in care.
- Government to improve access to new treatments for high mortality cancers, including lung cancer, through more flexible and efficient regulatory and reimbursement processes.
- Government, manufacturers and healthcare professionals to improve access to clinical trials:
 - Government to advocate for and fund more clinical research in Australia.
 - Manufacturers to open more study sites in Australia.
 - Healthcare professionals to ensure all options are identified and considered, for all patients with lung cancer, to participate in a clinical trial.

Increase research funding for lung cancer

Research offers hope, whether for a cure or improvement in quality of life. The benefits of research on improving outcomes in cancer are undisputed and improved survival rates for other commonly diagnosed cancers have been achieved through a consistent commitment to research. Investing in research dedicated to lung cancer will level the playing field.

- Government to establish a dedicated fund for lung cancer to increase research funding to \$20 million, per year, by 2020.
- Philanthropic community to establish specific targets for donations to lung cancer research.

This information is based on material presented in the report by Lung Foundation Australia "Improving outcomes for Australians with lung cancer". References are available on pages 16 and 17.

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