

Chinese Cancer Survivors living in Australia.

Findings from a Systematic Review and Focus Groups

Jillian Mills¹, Dr Bee Lim¹, Annie Miller¹

¹. Cancer Council NSW, Woolloomooloo, NSW, Australia

AIM

Conduct a systematic review and focus groups exploring the challenges and unmet needs experienced by the Australian Chinese community affected by cancer. Produce in-language webinars and resources addressing the identified unmet needs.

METHODS

Systematic review – Database, reference list, and author searches were conducted to identify studies reporting information needs of the Chinese community affected by cancer. Data synthesis was undertaken to define categories of information needs.

Focus groups – Mandarin and Cantonese speaking adult cancer survivors and carers, were recruited through community cancer support organisations. Focus groups were conducted, audio-recorded, transcribed, translated into English and thematically analysed using qualitative methods.

RESULTS

Chinese migrant cancer survivors and carers face multiple barriers to accessing quality cancer information and support and exhibit worse cancer and psychosocial outcomes than Australian-born cancer patients. Barriers include suboptimal health literacy, difficulties navigating the healthcare system, linguistic and cultural barriers. Information and support unmet needs include the themes of trust, wellness and rights. In-language webinars and resources have been produced and are available online and on DVD.

CONCLUSIONS

This study provides new insights into the impact of language, culture and health literacy barriers on the unmet information and support needs of the Chinese community affected by cancer living in Australia. This community will benefit from accurate information about cancer and

personal stories of cancer survivors in their native language.

It also highlights the need to collaborate with the Chinese community to develop and implement culturally appropriate interventions and improve access to

coordinated and quality cancer support for Chinese migrants' affected by cancer.

These findings underscore the importance that the voices of migrants are heard to ensure that health care systems provide best practice, culturally appropriate care.

