

2025/26 Highlights

Cancer Council NSW



Aboriginal Respect Symbol. Designed by Marcus Lee Design for Cancer Council NSW.

Cancer Council NSW would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work.

We would also like to pay respect to the Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Get involved

Cancer Council stands by everyone living with cancer, protecting life's moments, for life. This is only possible thanks to the incredible generosity of our volunteers, supporters and employees. Together, we work across every area of cancer, supporting communities where and when it's most needed.

With the help of our supporters, we are leading the way towards a cancer free future.

There are many ways you can get involved with us and help change the lives of people affected by cancer.

- Give regularly
- Host or join a fundraising event
- Visit one of our retail stores
- Share your story with us
- Partner with us
- Campaign with us
- Volunteer with us
- Work with us

To find out more, visit **cancercouncil.com.au/get-involved**

To view this report on our website, visit **cancercouncil.com.au/annual-report**

Contents

From our CEO and Chair 5

Looking forward 7

Our strategy: 2024-2028 7

Research strategy: seeds of change 8

Introducing Daffodil House 8

Our impact 9

Reducing cancer risk 9

Improving cancer survival 12

Enhancing the quality of life of people affected by cancer 15

Improving equity in cancer outcomes 18

Our thanks 23

Our remarkable community 24

Our partners 28

Where the money comes from 30

How we put the money to work 30



Tackling cancer takes all of us.

From our CEO and Chair



Professor Sarah Hosking
Cancer Council NSW CEO



Nigel Williams
Cancer Council NSW Chair of the Board

Together, we have achieved so much in our community this year.

We are delighted to share the highlights from Cancer Council NSW's FY25/26 and recognise the collective contribution of our community in helping us tackle cancer.

There is much to be optimistic about. Advances across research, prevention, early detection and treatment mean more people are surviving cancer than ever before, with almost 1.7 million Australians living with or beyond a cancer diagnosis.

These numbers reinforce why our work must keep evolving – preventing cancer, finding better ways to diagnose and treat the disease, improving quality of life and making sure no one is left behind.

Our impact in FY25/26

Last financial year, Cancer Council NSW continued to change the path of cancer and make sure no one walks alone through research, prevention, support and advocacy. Our vital work is improving the experience of cancer today and for generations to come.

In this highlights report, we share some of our progress – from research into treatments for aggressive childhood brain cancer to new approaches to precision cancer prevention led by Professor Martin Widschwendter as the new Director of the Daffodil Centre. Thanks to our partnership with Box Rallies, we also continue to invest in the next generation of cancer researchers, supporting discoveries that will help reduce cancer's impact for years to come.

This year we marked 20 years of Tackling Tobacco, helping people quit smoking. We also launched our new SunSmart Workplaces Toolkit to help organisations better protect outdoor workers from harmful UV exposure.

Our work focused on improving quality of life for people affected by cancer. Through achievements at the Australian Research Centre for Cancer Survivorship under Professor Bogda Koczwara's leadership, expanded practical and financial support, increased regional and bilingual Cancer Council liaisons to reach underserved communities, and more inclusive and accessible cancer information, we are working to ensure everyone can access the support they need.

Importantly, lived experience and community voices continue to shape this work, including through the launch of our Lived Experience Advisory Forum and our commitment to improving cancer equity.

Looking to the future

There is much to look forward to in the year ahead. A new research laboratory will be built in Sydney, bringing researchers on site and creating new opportunities for collaboration and discovery.

In early 2027, Daffodil House will open, providing 11 apartment-style isolation units for rural and regional families bringing a child to Sydney for cancer treatment.

We will continue expanding Cancer Connect, Cancer Council's National Cancer Navigation Service. Cancer Connect is here to make sure those impacted by cancer find the right information and support so everyone, regardless of location, has access to the help they need.

Thank you to our incredible community

None of this would be possible without our supporters, volunteers, researchers, partners and communities.

Your generosity and commitment allow us to keep pushing forward – preventing cancer, working towards research outcomes and supporting people through and beyond cancer.

Together, it's all of us against cancer.



Professor Sarah Hosking
Cancer Council NSW, CEO



Nigel Williams
Cancer Council NSW, Chair of the Board

OUR STRATEGY: 2024-2028

Our purpose

We change the path of cancer and make sure no one walks alone.

OUR CHALLENGE

Over the next 25 years, around **1.52 million people** in NSW will be diagnosed with cancer.

There are more than **15,000 cancer related deaths** in NSW each year.

There is a **71% survival rate** five years after a cancer diagnosis in NSW. This means there are more people living with and beyond cancer who need supportive care.

People are impacted by cancer disproportionately in NSW, depending on a range of risk and behavioural factors, access to healthcare and barriers to accessing interventions.

OUR RESPONSE

Reduce cancer risk through prevention and early intervention.

Improve cancer survival through world-class research.

Enhance the quality of life of people affected by cancer through transformative support.

Improve equity in cancer outcomes through bold advocacy.

OUR STRATEGY: 2024-2028

Our priorities for change

We have identified three opportunities to drive significant impact in our work to tackle cancer. These priority focus areas for FY24-28 will enable us to change the path of cancer, and make sure that no one walks alone.

Grow our impact in areas of greatest need

Daffodil Centre* research shows that inequity in cancer outcomes is increasing in NSW, Australia and globally. To combat this, we will increase our focus on the communities with the greatest need, prioritising projects with the most opportunity to drive change.

In FY26, we did this by:

- Expanding cancer support to where it's needed by launching a new Transport to Treatment service in Northern NSW.
- Strengthening support for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities by recruiting three bilingual Cancer Council liaisons in hospitals across Southwest Sydney Local Health District.
- Launching our Lived Experience Advisory Forum (LEAF), a network of people (18 years and over) from diverse backgrounds who have a lived experience of cancer to advise on the design, delivery and evaluation of new or existing programs, services, research, cancer information and advocacy initiatives.

Improve the lives of cancer survivors

Thanks to life-saving cancer research and improved cancer care, more people than ever before are living beyond their cancer diagnosis and treatment. However, this has presented us with a new challenge: an increased number of cancer survivors facing a combination of long-term impacts on their physical, emotional and financial wellbeing. We will harness our expertise and research to improve the lives of cancer survivors and people living with the ongoing effects of cancer in NSW.

In FY26, we did this by:

- Expanding our Australian Research Centre for Cancer Survivorship (ARCCS) team through the appointment of seven academics, including one research lead and six senior research fellows, bringing expertise across exercise, diet, implementation science, precision survivorship and epidemiology.
- 655 cancer patients and carers were provided with affordable accommodation during their treatment. This service helps ease financial pressure and improves people affected by cancer's quality of life.
- Providing a suite of practical, legal and financial support services designed to help people focus on what matters most after a cancer diagnosis: their health, wellbeing and loved ones. We helped more than 1,000 people with free legal support and approximately 400 people received free financial planning support for issues like superannuation and insurance issues.

Work with community for better outcomes

We know that purposeful, strategic community engagement is critical to achieve better health and cancer outcomes. To maintain our relevancy and increase our impact at community level, we will form partnerships with like-minded organisations, combining our expertise to save lives. By working with the NSW community, we will prioritise our focus to where it is needed most.

In FY26, we did this by:

- Developing Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, staff and volunteers to build and deliver culturally safe, responsive programs and services.
- Continuing to improve cancer equity by creating new resources for LGBTQI+ people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and people with low literacy or English as an additional language.

*A joint venture between Cancer Council NSW and the University of Sydney.

OUR RESEARCH STRATEGY: SEEDS OF CHANGE

Leading world-class research to create lasting change

Over the next three years, more than half a million people in Australia are expected to be diagnosed with cancer. That's why Cancer Council NSW is committed to investing over $40M to lead world-class research across all cancers, at all stages.

Through our new research strategy, we're setting a bold agenda: prioritising areas of greatest need, forging powerful partnerships, and championing equity so that every person, regardless of where they live or who they are, has the best chance against cancer.

Read more about our research strategy here



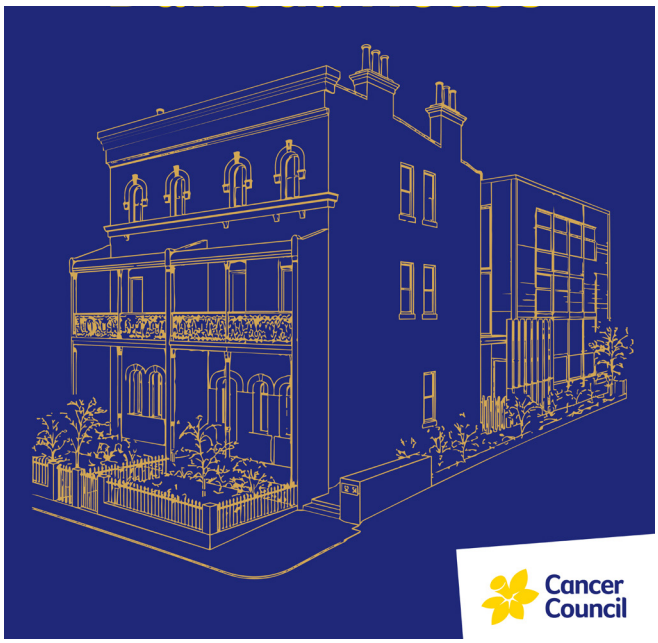
GROWING OUR IMPACT FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

Introducing Daffodil House

Sixty percent of families treated at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, come from outside of Sydney. To address this critical gap in support for families accessing paediatric cancer treatment, Cancer Council NSW is opening Daffodil House in Randwick. Daffodil House will provide accommodation for children with cancer and their families who need to relocate to Sydney during treatment.

Opening in early 2027, the accommodation comprises 11 apartment-style isolation units to house rural and regional families bringing a child with cancer for treatment.

"The new accommodation will provide a home away from home, close to critical treatment for as long as it is needed. We are incredibly proud to support children with cancer and their families at some of the most challenging times in their lives," Cancer Council NSW CEO Professor Sarah Hosking said.



OUR IMPACT

Reducing cancer risk

Daffodil Centre leads the way in precision cancer prevention

Internationally recognised cancer prevention leader Professor Martin Widschwendter was appointed Director of the Daffodil Centre in May 2026. Under Professor Widschwendter's leadership, the Daffodil Centre will accelerate its focus on precision cancer prevention.

More than half a million Australians are expected to be diagnosed with cancer over the next three years. While treatment outcomes continue to improve, cancer remains one of the leading causes of illness and death, placing significant strain on individuals, families and the health system.

Precision cancer prevention will offer a new way forward by enabling earlier risk identification, smarter screening, tailored prevention strategies and better use of health resources, particularly for communities that experience higher cancer risk and poorer outcomes. This new era of cancer prevention allows people to take action earlier, based on their individual risk, rather than waiting until cancer develops.

"Cancer survival has improved significantly over the past few decades, but the next frontier is a personalised approach to prevention," Professor Widschwendter said. "Precision cancer prevention gives us the tools to predict risk earlier and intervene sooner, helping more people avoid a cancer diagnosis and ensure they never have to hear the words 'you have cancer'."

He will lead the Daffodil Centre alongside Professor Anne Cust, University of Sydney Director of the Daffodil Centre, strengthening collaboration between research, public health, policy and real-world implementation.



New guidelines to improve early detection of prostate cancer

A new set of national clinical guidelines, supported by evidence-based data from the Daffodil Centre, have been developed for the early detection of prostate cancer. The guidelines provide clearer recommendations to help men make informed decisions about testing and diagnosis.

The updated recommendations reflect significant advances in prostate cancer research, diagnosis and management over the past 10 years. A key change is a stronger focus on risk-based testing, allowing clinicians to find cancer in earlier stages for those most at risk of clinically significant prostate cancer.

Professor David Smith, Prostate Cancer Stream Lead at the Daffodil Centre, said the new guidelines provide long-awaited clarity for both GPs and the community.

"Australia now has a clear set of recommendations about what GPs should recommend to their patients and what men should do in relation to early detection of prostate cancer," he explained. "The main change is it's now recommended GPs are to initiate a discussion around prostate cancer risk and testing with men from age 50 to 69. Prior to this, men didn't really know what they should be doing in relation to prostate cancer."

Watch: Professor David Smith explains the new prostate cancer guidelines



OUR IMPACT

Reducing cancer risk

Celebrating 20 years of Tackling Tobacco

Cancer Council NSW proudly marked 20 years of Tackling Tobacco in 2026, a program designed to reduce smoking rates among communities most affected by tobacco use across NSW. For two decades, Tackling Tobacco has worked in partnership with community organisations, researchers, government agencies, and peak bodies to address smoking through evidence-based cessation support, training, and tailored organisational change.

Since 2006, Tackling Tobacco has supported:

250+
organisations

21,648
clients who smoke

4,580
trained staff from partner organisations

The program is grounded in a commitment to health equity, recognising that smoking disproportionately affects people experiencing social, cultural, or economic disadvantage, where tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of cancer. Tackling Tobacco's approach works with communities to empower them through a comprehensive suite of support, including specialist staff training, dedicated program guidance from a Tackling Tobacco expert, and resources to implement smoke-free policies and best-practice cessation support.

Notable milestones included the national Tackling Nicotine Together trial in 2013, the Tackling Tobacco in Aboriginal Communities Initiative in 2016, which strengthened culturally safe approaches to quitting, and the national expansion of Tackling Tobacco to Cancer Council federation partners most recently in South Australia, Western Australia and the ACT, marking significant national uptake. Together, these achievements have helped embed smoking cessation support into routine care across community services, reach priority populations, and contribute to more equitable cancer prevention outcomes across NSW.

Dr Laura Twyman, Program Lead for Tobacco Cessation at Cancer Council NSW, says the 20-year milestone reflects the collective effort of partners across the state.

"For 20 years, Tackling Tobacco has worked alongside community organisations to support people on their quitting journey. This anniversary is a testament to the strength of our partnerships, the resilience of clients, and the commitment of staff delivering this work every day," Dr Twyman explains.

"We know that smoking rates remain disproportionately high among priority populations. With the right resources, relationships and systems in place, community organisations play a powerful role in reducing tobacco-related disparities and the evidence shows this approach works."

Learn more about 20-years of Tackling Tobacco achievements



OUR IMPACT

Reducing cancer risk

96%
of Early Childhood services participated in our SunSmart Program

1,052
people accessed Tackling Tobacco resources to help them quit

283,045
people visited the Healthy Made Tasty website to get healthy eating information and recipe inspiration

5,000+
young people reached with the Generation Vape study, which helped inform policy changes to protect against vaping and tobacco use

Building safer, SunSmart workplaces

For people who work outdoors, sun exposure is a serious workplace health risk.

Outdoor workers can be exposed to up to 10 times more ultraviolet (UV) radiation than indoor workers. Each year in Australia, workplace UV exposure is estimated to contribute to around 200 melanomas and 34,000 non-melanoma skin cancers.

To help protect workers and support workplaces make positive changes, Cancer Council NSW launched the SunSmart Workplace Toolkit. The practical and evidence-based Toolkit helps organisations reduce harmful UV exposure and make sun safety part of everyday workplace practices.

"The Toolkit supports organisations in taking a targeted approach to their UV safety, by aligning it to existing WH&S systems and in consultation with their workers" explains Liz King, Skin Cancer Prevention Manager.

Practical resources for workplaces

The Toolkit brings together information, resources and training in one place to help organisations understand what their workplace UV risks are and how best to address these risks.

It includes an interactive UV risk assessment, editable policy and action plan templates, education and training resources, communication materials and practical guidance to strengthen sun protection.

Developed with support from EML, a leading workers compensation and injury claims provider, through its Mutual Benefits Program, the Toolkit was viewed more than 11,000 times in its first month, highlighting strong demand for better workplace sun safety.

Why workplace sun protection matters

More than 1.2 million Australian workers are exposed to solar UV radiation through their work.

From tradies and landscapers to teachers, sport and recreation staff, agricultural workers, council employees, and volunteers, many people spend part or all of their working day outside.

The SunSmart Workplace Toolkit supports Cancer Council NSW's focus on reducing skin cancer risk by helping employers identify gaps, put effective protections in place and reduce workers' exposure to a known cause of cancer.





OUR IMPACT

Improving cancer survival



Pioneering a better future for children with brain cancer

Brain cancer is the main cause of cancer-related deaths in children.

That's why Professor David Ziegler has dedicated his career to improving survival rates for children diagnosed with aggressive brain cancers.

His research, supported by Cancer Council NSW, focused on a process called the polyamine pathway in cancer cells, which tumours need to grow and survive. The team found that blocking this pathway with a combination of drugs could slow tumour growth in lab models that mimic childhood disease. The treatment was even more effective when combined with chemotherapy, leading to much longer survival rates in aggressive brain tumour models.

Professor Ziegler and his team also explored why some tumours respond better to treatment than others. By examining tumour samples, the researchers were able to better understand why some tumours respond well to treatment while others stop responding over time. This knowledge could help identify which patients are most likely to benefit from these treatments in the future.

"In the past year, this research has shown that while blocking the polyamine pathway is a promising strategy. This combination therapy can greatly extend survival in aggressive childhood brain tumour models. Just as importantly, the team is carefully studying safety, helping move this treatment closer to responsible use in children," explained Professor Ziegler.

Overall, his research established polyamine pathway inhibition as a promising treatment for aggressive childhood brain tumours, laying the groundwork for future clinical settings.



Spotlight on Professor Graham Mann: contribution to melanoma research

Daffodil Centre Deputy Director Professor Graham Mann helps represent Cancer Council NSW in its research partnership with the University of Sydney. A leading figure in melanoma research, Graham has dedicated much of his career to advancing our understanding of the disease.

How has Cancer Council NSW supported your career in melanoma research?

Cancer Council NSW grants have been a key support for my research since the earliest days. My start in cancer research was working with families where melanoma had occurred many times; that project had been boosted by a Cancer Council NSW research grant to the Sydney Melanoma Unit (SMU) just before I arrived back from my postdoc training in Sweden.

Years later, my colleagues at the SMU (then called Melanoma Institute Australia) and I had developed the world's largest biobank of melanoma tumours and patient data. The late Richard Scolyer, Nick Hayward (from QIMR-Berghofer) and I then used it to lead what are still the world's largest studies of the DNA of melanoma cells. That Melanoma Genome Project was funded by three major partners, including Cancer Council NSW.

In the meantime, our teams were supported at different times by Cancer Council NSW. One of those projects showed that artificial sunbeds were a significant contributor to melanoma and, starting in NSW, triggered the bans on solariums that have since saved so many lives.

Read our full interview with Professor Graham Mann here

OUR IMPACT

Improving cancer survival

Rallying together for cancer research

Cancer Council's partnership with Box Rallies is a powerful example of how the community coming together can drive world-class cancer research. Founded by James Freeman after losing both of his parents to cancer within 12 months, Box Rallies challenges participants to drive old vehicles across Australia in some of the toughest terrains while raising funds for cancer research.

2026 was a particularly challenging year for the Box Rallies team as fuel shortages across Australia called into question the normal Rally season.

"As the whole of Australia questioned where their next litre of fuel was coming from, we at Box Rallies had to make the very difficult decision to postpone our Autumn Rally" said Box Rallies CEO James Freeman.

"Without these Rallies, vital cancer research would not have been funded so this was a really challenging decision for us. As the shortages eased, my dedicated staff and volunteer team worked around the clock to rearrange the event. We ended up running three Rallies over eight weeks, which is an incredible 11,000 kms of Rally driving (not like road driving!). It was all so worthwhile as it's for an incredible cause and we know just how impactful these funds are for cancer research."

In FY2025-26, Box Rallies raised $9.6 million for Cancer Council, supporting world-class research across prevention, detection and treatment.

Incredibly, this figure brings the total to more than $69 million for Cancer Council since its inception in 2010. Altogether, this funding has supported 86 projects across 24 research institutions and 28 different types of cancer.



Altogether, research supported through Box Rallies has contributed to:

77
scientific papers

223
conference presentations in Australia and overseas

128
follow-on research grants

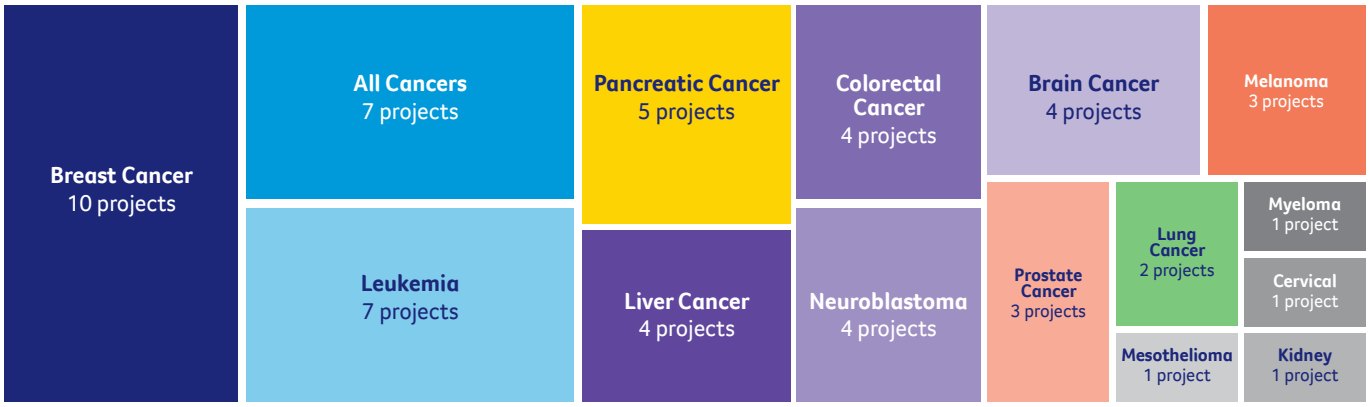
8
new patents, helping to move towards real-world use

OUR IMPACT

Improving cancer survival

Rallying together for cancer research

Leading cancer areas by number of projects funded, part of 86 projects across 28 cancer types:



Among the many projects supported through Box Rallies is the research of Associate Professor Joanna Groom. A/Prof Groom is working on developing an anti-cancer vaccine for patients where existing immunotherapies have failed, aiming to prevent metastasis and recurrent tumours. One publication from this study was recognised as one of the Journal of Experimental Medicine's Top 10 Articles of 2025, reflecting the research's significance and wide-reaching impact.

Box Rallies also supported Professor Peter Croucher AM and his team, who investigated multiple myeloma and how cancer spreads to the bone. His research sought to understand why cancer returns after treatment, so it can be detected and stopped earlier. Researchers have cited his work more than 800 times worldwide, and it has also been published in two international journals.

Professor Croucher AM also received the Sally Crossing Award for an outstanding contribution to cancer research, recognising his groundbreaking efforts.

Cancer Council would like to thank Box Rallies for their ongoing commitment and for helping amplify our impact by supporting world-class cancer research. We look forward to continuing the partnership as we work towards the next big research breakthrough.

Learn more about our partnership with Box Rallies



OUR IMPACT

Enhancing the quality of life of people affected by cancer

World-first centre puts cancer survivors at the heart of research



Thanks to decades of progress in cancer research, prevention, early detection and treatment, more Australians are surviving cancer than ever before.

Today, more than 1.7 million Australians are living with or beyond a cancer diagnosis – a number that continues to grow.

While this is heartening, surviving cancer is often just the beginning of a new stage of life. Many people continue to experience the long-term physical, emotional, psychological, social and financial impacts of cancer and its treatment, long after treatment has ended.

Now, the focus is expanding beyond treating cancer to supporting the person behind the diagnosis. Cancer Council NSW and UNSW Sydney recently established the Australian Research Centre for Cancer Survivorship (ARCCS) in Sydney, the first research facility in the world dedicated solely to improving life after cancer.

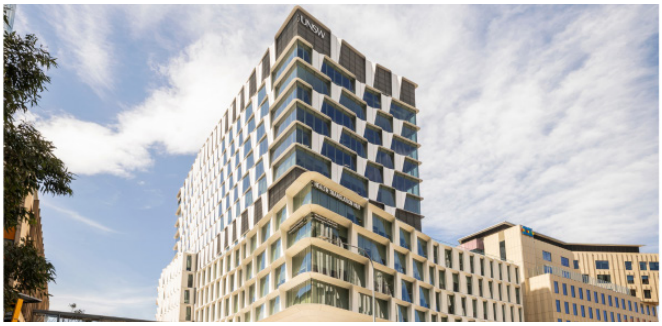
A new chapter in cancer survivorship

Launched in February 2026, the Centre was established through a $40 million, 10-year partnership, with research focusing on what happens after cancer treatment – from improving survivorship care and support services to shaping future healthcare and policy.

Cancer survivors, carers, clinicians and researchers are working together to co-design practical solutions to address real challenges.

Since its launch, seven academics including one research lead and six senior research fellows have joined the team, bringing expertise across exercise, diet, implementation science, precision survivorship and epidemiology.

A key priority is ensuring advances in survivorship care reach everyone, including people living in regional and rural communities who can face additional barriers to care and support.



Bringing lived experience to survivorship research

For Peter Spolc, survivorship is deeply personal. Peter, from the Blue Mountains in NSW, was diagnosed with metastatic lung cancer in 2021. The success of targeted therapy has enabled him to continue living well and has also motivated him to contribute to cancer research as a member of the ARCCS Lived Experience Advisory Group.

“There is no one survivorship experience. Each person has a unique medical position, outlook and prospects for living well,” explains Peter. “All of our lives matter, no matter the medical circumstances we might find ourselves in.”

This focus on helping every person enhance their quality of life after cancer gives Peter hope.

Supporting every cancer survivor

Led by internationally recognised cancer survivorship expert Professor Bogda Koczwara AM (pictured third from the left), the Centre is using research to help people live better and longer after cancer.

“We have developed survivorship interventions that can improve not just the quality of survival and wellbeing after cancer, but the length of survival by reducing the risk of dying from cancer or other related conditions,” explains Professor Koczwara.

“We are beginning to understand who is more likely to experience problems and can intervene early so people can live better and longer. Research is what makes these outcomes possible.”

OUR IMPACT

Enhancing the quality of life of people affected by cancer

Addressing the financial cost of cancer

655
cancer patients and carers were provided with affordable accommodation during treatment

88%
of clients reported that the support from us reduced their accommodation-related financial stress

1,000+
people received free legal support we facilitated

400+
people received free financial planning support from us

A cancer diagnosis can bring many hidden costs. People may find themselves out of pocket for travel and accommodation costs when accessing treatment, and they may experience changes to their work and income and therefore struggle to repay debts or meet everyday expenses.

To ease this burden, Cancer Council NSW provides a suite of practical, legal and financial support services designed to help people focus on what matters most after a cancer diagnosis: their health, wellbeing and loved ones.

Supporting regional patients through treatment

Our Accommodation Hardship service subsidises costs and helps patients book accommodation when they need to travel for treatment. For one Accommodation Hardship client from Moree in northwest NSW, our services made a potentially life-saving difference.

Mary* had to travel a 1,300 kilometres return trip to Sydney for specialist treatment for multiple myeloma. Mary and her family were already navigating difficult treatment decisions and a growing loss of independence. The cost and logistics of spending weeks away from home added another layer of stress.

We worked closely with Mary, her daughter and her healthcare team to coordinate accommodation during her treatment – sourcing and booking a place to stay on her behalf and covering the cost of 42 nights.

By removing this practical and financial burden, Mary and her family could focus their energy on her care. Reflecting on the difference the support made, Mary's daughter said:

"Accommodation Hardship support gave our family hope, dignity, breathing space and the ability to keep going. The support helped Mum regain some of her confidence and allowed us to move forward together when, only a short time before, we weren't sure how we were going to manage."

Services like these help remove the practical, legal and financial barriers that can stand between people affected by cancer and access to treatment and support.

Because no one should have to choose between the cost of cancer and getting the care they need.

**Name changed for privacy*

OUR IMPACT

Enhancing the quality of life of people affected by cancer

Creating a better future for cancer survivors



Associate Professor Qingwei Luo: Understanding cancer's growing impact on Australia

Associate Professor Qingwei Luo at the Daffodil Centre has led a major research program exploring cancer trends and future cancer burden in Australia, producing 19 publications in leading journals. Her internationally recognised commentary on global cancer burden was published in *The Lancet* in 2025 and has been widely cited in the field.

Associate Professor Luo co-led research predicting how many Australians will be living with solid cancers that have specific biological markers, helping health system planners prepare for growing demand for targeted treatments and immunotherapies that can improve outcomes while reducing unnecessary side effects.

More recently, research led by Associate Professor Luo showed that the number of Australians living after a cancer diagnosis is expected to grow significantly by 2050, particularly among older people. The study estimates more than 2.6 million Australians could be cancer survivors by then, with almost 1.15 million needing ongoing treatment or care. These projections are helping governments and health services plan for the future, ensuring cancer survivors can access the support, care and rehabilitation they need.



Associate Professor Julia Steinberg: Improving cancer care for all Australians

Associate Professor Julia Steinberg and her team at the Daffodil Centre are using genomics and large-scale health data to improve cancer prevention, early detection and health system performance. Their research focuses on identifying gaps and inefficiencies in cancer care, uncovering inequities in outcomes, and generating evidence that can inform more tailored interventions to improve health outcomes for people affected by cancer.

Recently, Associate Professor Steinberg led research revealing widening inequities in cancer survival across Australia, highlighting that people experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage continue to have poorer cancer outcomes. The findings have improved our understanding of where targeted action is needed and are helping inform efforts to make cancer care fairer and more accessible.

Her team also contributed to a national clinical trial aimed at improving testing for Lynch syndrome, an inherited condition that increases the risk of certain cancers. Identifying people at high cancer risk is vital for cancer prevention and early detection. Together, these studies are providing valuable evidence needed to create a more equitable and effective cancer care system, with the potential to improve outcomes and quality of life for future generations.

OUR IMPACT

Improving equity in cancer outcomes

A growing need for services: Expanding cancer support to where it's needed

From regional towns to culturally diverse communities, we are committed to bringing cancer information and support closer to people who need it.

This year, we've expanded our reach – delivering services, trusted information and tailored support in more accessible ways.

Connecting regional communities to treatment

For people living in regional and rural areas, getting to cancer treatment can be a challenge. Cancer Council launched a new Transport to Treatment service in response to growing demand in the Tweed and Byron Shires in northern NSW.

Local cancer survivor, Terry (pictured below) personally understands the difference this support can make. After being diagnosed with bone cancer in 2021, he needed specialist treatment seven hours from home. Cancer Council helped coordinate flights, accommodation and transport to his appointments, removing additional pressure from an already overwhelming experience.

Michael*, a client from Murwillumbah, who has been accessing the service indicated he would not have been able to get to his cancer treatment appointments without the service. Reflecting on his experience of the service, Michael described Cancer Council's volunteer drivers as "absolutely fabulous".

With the addition of the Tweed/Byron Transport to Treatment service, Cancer Council NSW now operates 21 transport services across the state.

**Name changed for privacy*

Expanding culturally inclusive cancer support

We also continued to strengthen support for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities by recruiting three bilingual Cancer Council liaisons in hospitals across Southwest Sydney Local Health District. Our bilingual liaisons help people understand their care, navigate services and access support in their own language.

Across metropolitan, regional and rural NSW, 32 co-designed, in-language workshops were delivered focusing on language, culture, health literacy and navigating the healthcare system. The sessions reached 1,005 people from Arabic, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Hindi, Punjabi, Korean and Nepali-speaking communities. The workshops empowered 36 Community Champions to help extend this knowledge further into their communities.

The results demonstrate the impact of delivering information in accessible ways to improve awareness, knowledge and confidence in cancer screening.

Participants' knowledge pre and post workshops increased from 22% to 72% for breast screening, 15% to 65% for bowel screening and 12% to 63% for cervical screening. Following the workshops, 96% of participants understood the benefits of screening and 92% knew how to access screening services in NSW.

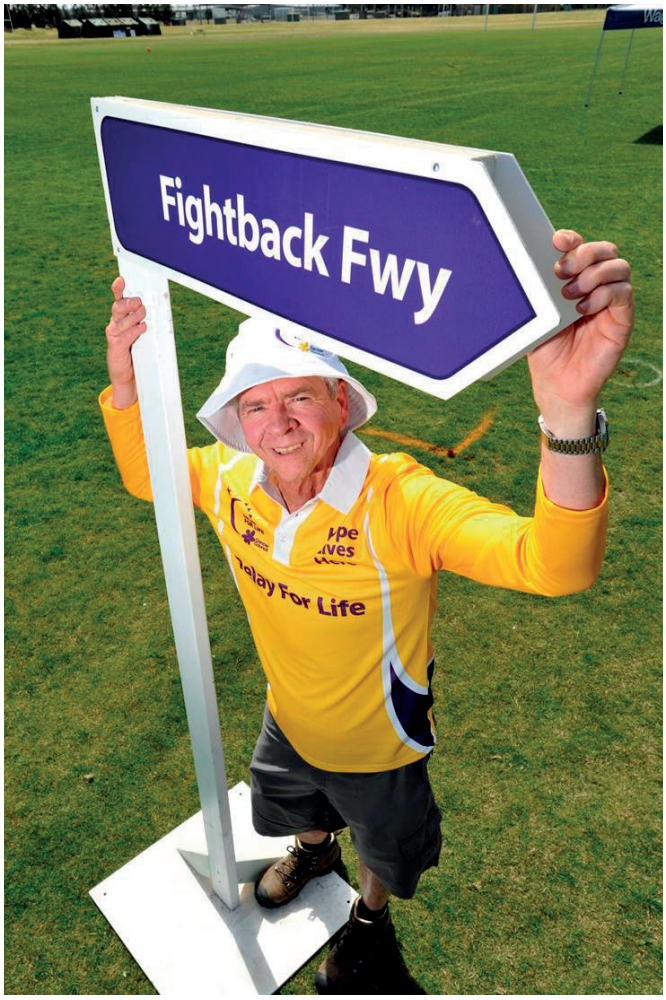
Importantly, the program translated education into action, facilitating 69 breast screening bookings, 19 completed breast screens, 37 cervical screening self-collection samples, and distributed 29 bowel screening kits.





OUR IMPACT

Improving equity in cancer outcomes



Bringing lived experience to Cancer Council's work

Cancer Council is proud to have launched our Lived Experience Advisory Forum (LEAF). LEAF is a network of people (18 years and over) from diverse backgrounds who have a lived experience of cancer, including patients, carers and family members who bring different perspectives to the work of Cancer Council.

Members are invited to advise on the design, delivery and evaluation of new or existing programs, services, research, cancer information and advocacy initiatives. They also support our work by identifying emerging community needs and priorities and promoting culturally safe and equitable services, programs and information.

These insights help ensure Cancer Council NSW's work is relevant, inclusive, and shaped by the people it supports.

Alan, a member of LEAF, has supported various projects and used his personal experience to guide initiatives across the organisation.

"I am very honoured and pleased to be an active LEAF member. This is a great initiative to incorporate the lived experiences of survivors and carers, which hopefully will contribute to ever improved outcomes," said Alan.

2.61 million
visits to our cancer information and support web pages

1,194
cancer patients and carers used our Transport to Treatment service

1,000+
people reached through 32 culturally and linguistically diverse screening workshops

181,851
cancer resources were distributed ensuring people have access to relevant information

OUR IMPACT

Improving equity in cancer outcomes

Turning commitment into action with Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan

Cancer Council NSW is committed to deepening our connections with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to build and deliver culturally safe, responsive programs and services, and to be an organisation of choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by cancer. Our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) builds on the achievements of our previous RAP and strengthens our ability to foster trust, improve outcomes and advance reconciliation through meaningful action.

"Gaining experience and reflecting on pertinent learnings will ensure the sustainability of Cancer Council NSW's future RAPs and reconciliation initiatives, providing meaningful impact toward Australia's reconciliation journey," said Karen Mundine, Chief Executive Officer, Reconciliation Australia.

Innovate RAP was developed in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, staff and volunteers. Throughout the process, Cancer Council NSW collaborated with 31 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders representing communities, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, government bodies and non-government organisations. Our RAP Working Group will oversee the work and provide regular updates to the Executive Leadership Team and Board to ensure accountability for the delivery of the plan.

Highlights from the last year include:

- Strengthened relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by participating in key events across NSW, including National Reconciliation Week, Yabun Festival and the Koori Knockout.
- Assessed cultural learning needs through the ongoing development of a cultural competency program for the organisation.
- Continued to build cultural capability and safety through reviews of HR policies and practices.
- Demonstrated our commitment to improving opportunities for Aboriginal owned businesses by becoming a member of Supply Nation.

"It's so good that we're able to help the Aboriginal community with understanding cancer. It's really important that Aboriginal health workers can provide that cultural advice to the non-Aboriginal staff and cultural support to our community members," adds Uncle Clarke Scott, Aboriginal community member.

As Cancer Council seeks to deepen its connections with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we aim to build trust through a strong and consistent presence at community events, including NAIDOC Week and the Koori Knockout (pictured below).





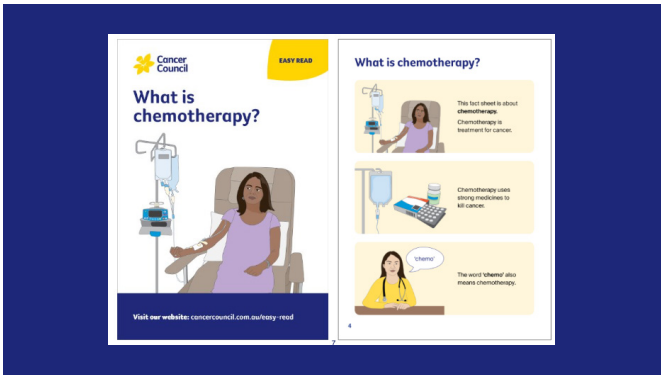


OUR IMPACT

Improving equity in cancer outcomes

Making cancer information more accessible for everyone





Reflecting LGBTQI+ experiences in cancer information

LGBTQI+ people can experience inequities throughout cancer care, including discrimination, invisibility and a lack of inclusive cancer information.

Cancer Council NSW's *LGBTQI+ People and Cancer* patient information booklet was developed to help address these gaps. The booklet translates research findings from Western Sydney University's four-year *Out with Cancer* study of LGBTQI+ experiences of cancer, and was created with extensive input from LGBTQI+ people affected by cancer, community organisations and health professionals.

In 2025-26, the *LGBTQI+ People and Cancer* resource was formally evaluated with an online survey, interviews and usage data. The results highlighted the difference that inclusive information can make.

Among LGBTQI+ participants, 95% found the booklet easy to understand and 86% found it engaging, while 78% said it helped, or would have helped, them cope with distress.

The resource achieved significant reach, with more than 7,200 print copies distributed nationally and more than 21,000 visits to the webpages during the evaluation period.

Making complex information easier to understand

Each year, around 20,000 people diagnosed with cancer in Australia have low literacy levels, while many others speak English as a second language and may find it difficult to understand health information written in English.

Complex health information can create another barrier to navigating cancer, contributing to inequities in cancer care.

In 2025, with funding from a Perpetual IMPACT grant, we piloted five new Easy Read fact sheets (covering chemotherapy, radiation therapy, feelings and cancer, help with money and life after cancer) and an animated video. These highly visual resources use clear words and engaging illustrations to explain cancer treatment, coping and support.

In the first five months, 3,554 people accessed the Easy Read webpages, and 1,727 printed fact sheets were distributed.

Importantly, distribution reached regional and remote communities (33.2%) and areas experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage (46.6%).

Almost 90% of health professionals surveyed agreed the resources help meet the information needs of people with low literacy, while those who use them found them easy to understand, reassuring and relevant.

"They've really taken the time to know what people with disabilities need and I really respect that. I am extremely happy with the information because it's all relevant and easy to understand," shared one focus group participant with an intellectual disability.

OUR IMPACT

Improving equity in cancer outcomes

Making cancer information more accessible for everyone



Strengthening culturally relevant resources

We enhanced and expanded information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Four existing cancer fact sheets were updated with input from cultural and clinical reviewers: *Cervical cancer, Head and Neck cancer, Lymphoma* and *What does that word mean?*

A new fact sheet, *Making plans for your family and mob*, was developed to support legal, financial and future care planning, developed with guidance from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reviewers and legal experts.

With these new additions, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander series has grown to 17 fact sheets available in print and online.

Together, these cancer information initiatives are removing barriers and improving cancer equity, creating a future where everyone affected by cancer can feel seen, informed and supported – every step of the way.



Staying connected

In FY25/26, we laid the foundations for Cancer Connect, a national initiative that builds on the trusted 13 11 20 service to create a more connected and accessible support experience for people affected by cancer. Throughout the year, work focused on developing the service, digital experience and referral pathways ahead of its phased rollout, which began in June 2026 with the launch of the Cancer Connect website.

As a key part of Cancer Connect, 13 11 20 continues to provide trusted support, with people able to call the familiar number or access information and services through cancerconnect.org.au.

Designed to improve equity and make support easier to navigate, Cancer Connect recognises the diverse needs, backgrounds and locations of people affected by cancer, in line with the Australian Cancer Plan.

We're here, so no one faces cancer alone.



OUR THANKS

Our remarkable community

Celebrating our selfless volunteers

Whether supporting events, such as Relay For Life, engaging with communities to deliver our services, contributing through a formal placement or strengthening our day-to-day operations, Cancer Council volunteers make a meaningful difference every day. We are proud to recognise their contributions and thank them for the impact they have on our organisation and the communities we serve.

Grant and Denise Hearn, longterm Griffith Relay For Life volunteers, were recognised internationally by the American Cancer Society as the only Australian 2026 Global Heroes of Hope. Grant and Denise have dedicated over two decades to supporting Cancer Council across advocacy, volunteering and fundraising and are committed to raising awareness about cancer to further impact the work of Cancer Council.



Volunteer Ruby also generously gives her time to support the fundraising team from the South Coast region. She says volunteering for Stars of Nowra has been a highlight from her time at Cancer Council.

"It's an amazing chance to produce your own work in an encouraging environment, knowing every piece contributes to a cancer free future while also learning new skills, meeting new people and making new friends."





Mario and Deb's generosity lives on

Longtime Cancer Council supporter Mario left an extraordinary Gift in his Will in honour of his wife, Deb, who died from breast cancer.

Mario and Deb first connected with Cancer Council in 2001, when Deb was diagnosed with breast cancer. Throughout her treatment, they relied on our information and support services, and Mario never forgot the care and kindness they received.

Deb's cancer returned in 2010, and she died just two years later. Mario continued to support Cancer Council and was a firm believer in the power of cancer research. After Mario died in 2022, he left a generous Gift in his Will to Cancer Council NSW in Deb's name. We are honoured to recognise both Mario and Deb, and grateful that their legacy will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

OUR THANKS

Our remarkable community

A community that gives back

Having experienced cancer firsthand, Matt, Amy and Heather turned their experiences into action. Their diagnoses became a catalyst for giving back, helping to fund life-saving research and support services through Cancer Council fundraisers.



Taking on 7 Bridges to tackle cancer

Matt (pictured second) was diagnosed with testicular cancer in 2025 at just 28 years old and is currently in remission after undergoing two surgeries and chemotherapy.

He took part in the 7 Bridges Walk shortly after his treatment ended.

“My motivation for walking in the 7 Bridges Walk was to say thank you for all the support I received,” explained Matt.

“It was also a chance to challenge myself and raise money for a cause that means a lot to me.” said Matt.

Watch Matt talk about his motivation for doing 7 Bridges Walk

Making a splash for cancer research

After Heather was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2007, she developed a deep appreciation for the role research plays in improving outcomes for people affected by cancer. Nearly two decades after her diagnosis, she continues to give back via initiatives such as the Daffodil Day Dip, raising funds to support cancer research.

“The Daffodil Day Dip is a fabulous way in which I can give back and raise funds for cancer research to help others,” said Heather.



A star in Orange

Amy was just 22 when she learned she had inherited Lynch syndrome, a genetic condition that significantly increases the risk of several cancers. Years later, a routine colonoscopy detected a tumour in her bowel, leading to major surgery and chemotherapy.

During her cancer diagnosis and treatment, Amy turned to Cancer Council services when the financial burden of cancer became difficult to manage. “They helped us access assistance and support we didn’t even know existed. When you’re worried about how you’ll pay for groceries, that kind of help means everything,” she said.

The support she received inspired Amy to give back by taking part in Stars of Orange and raising funds for Cancer Council.

“Across the eight Stars participants, we raised more than $300,000, which was amazing. It really showed me how generous people can be when a cause means something to them,” Amy said.



OUR THANKS

Our Daffodil Circle

We would like to recognise these incredibly generous individuals, who left a gift in their Will in 2025/26. There is no greater legacy than a gift towards tackling cancer for generations to come.

Alida (Carol) Hendrika Muir
Althea Elaine McFadden
Ann Verina Becker
Annie Teresa Burrows
Anthony Gerard Fitzgibbon
Avril Marie Brown
Barbara Joyce Moore
Barry Edward Enkelmann
Beresford Roger Bluett
Beryl Jean Lloyd
Beryl Olive Barton
Beverley Ann Barnett
Bruce Anthony Nicholas
Bruce McLeod Williams
Carole June Hocking
Charles William Newling
Cheryl Gai Payne
Dawn Elizabeth Ferguson
Doreen Gabriel Peacock
Doreen Irene Veronica Flynn
Dorothy Anne Headrick
Edith Margaret Kidd
Edward John Mortimer
Edwin Dudley van Wyk
Elizabeth Joan Cooper
Elvira Katharina Stembridge
Esma Ann Lindner
Eve Alice Penny
Fay Patricia Harrison
Frances Evelyn Blackwell
Frank Harry Wyld
Frederick Neary
Geoffrey Shaw
Graham ("Tom") John Sawyer
Graham Noel Norman
Harold Bernard Telfer
Hazel Jane Cabban
Henri Walter Aram
Irene June Hemsworth
Jacqueline Yolande de Peralo
Janeece Lillian Duncan
Janet Amy Lumsden
Janette Elizabeth Burge
Janice Elizabeth Fisher
Jeanette Marie Gallagher
Jennifer Foy
Jessie James
John Edney Frederick Harvey
Joyce Anne Jeffreys
Joyce Catherine Smith
Joyce Lang Zea
Judith Anne Rieschke
Judith Kaldor
Judith Norma Turner
Julie Anne Woods
June Eileen Garnon
Keith Harold Munro
Kenneth Lachlan Douglass
Kevin Ivor O'Callaghan
Kirpal Singh
Lesley Anne Russell
Leslie Charles Hansen
Leslie James Muldoon
Leulutaiai Maua
Linda Eleanor Leach
Lucy Maria Sroka
Margaret Alison Gray
Margaret Amel Bishop
Margaret Lorraine Jones
Margaret Nerina Nenke
Maria Coppolino
Marie Patricia Andersen
Marilyn McCrea
Mario Salvatore Russo
Marjorie Catherine Cooper
Marjorie Ellison
Martyna Parsons
Mary Hildred Melvan
Mary Lucy Mavis Kiehne
Maureen Campbell
Michael John Carroll
Michael William Arthur Date
Nancye Margaret Watts
Neville Charles Bendall
Odin Urwin
Pamela Margaret Snodgrass
Patricia Doreen Alexander
Patricia Rose Hunt
Patrick (Pat) Ralph Pound
Patrick Gabriel Reardon
Peter Alexander Lewis
Rachel Sadik
Reinier Veerman
Rita Battye
Robert Edward Canty
Robert Stewart Kirkham
Robert Trevethan
Robin Lorna Voigt
Roy Stanton
Shane Anthony Batkin
Sheila Ormiston Millsom
Stanley Lawrence Cupples
Stephanie Karin Norman
Susan Ann Harlow
Susan Margaret McGrath
Susan Rosemary Wise
Thi Hong Nguyen
Valerie Anne Lhuede
Vivienne Colley
Wendy Ann Rosenthal
Wendy Anne Dobbie
William Andrew Boyd
Winifred Rose Playford

We would also like to thank the benefactors who wished to remain anonymous.

OUR THANKS



PASPALEY

Staying sun safe with SpongeBob

Paramount Pictures teamed up with Cancer Council to help keep families sun smart over summer. Bringing our iconic Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide message to life through SpongeBob and friends in the new feature film *The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants*. The campaign encouraged children and parents to take steps to protect their skin from the sun, launching nationally in front of more than 2,000 media representatives and influencers, with messaging further amplified through cinemas across Australia.

Celebrating 15 years of support from Paspaley

Paspaley, known for the world's rarest and most beautiful pearls, has been a major sponsor of Cancer Council's POSH Gala Ball for the past 15 years. Paspaley's continued generosity and commitment have helped make POSH Gala Ball such a success.



Tackling cancer with Publicis Groupe

Cancer Council is proud to have entered its third year of partnership with Publicis Groupe, whose support includes financial contributions, staff fundraising and in-kind services. Together, we have helped raise awareness of the Working with Cancer pledge, a global initiative that aims to remove the stigma of cancer in the workplace and enable a supportive environment for employees affected by cancer. As part of their commitment, Publicis Groupe staff took part in Le Dip, with senior executives braving ice baths to raise more than $30,000 for Cancer Council.



Helping make POSH possible

For 27 years, Winning Appliances has been a valued major sponsor of the POSH Gala Ball, and this year generously contributed more than $60,000 worth of kitchen appliances to help support Cancer Council's fundraising efforts. We are especially grateful to John Winning AM and John Ryder, both members of the POSH Committee, for their ongoing commitment. The Winning family's longstanding partnership reflects the values that have underpinned their success: inclusivity, equality and respect.

OUR THANKS



Kicking off against cancer

Cancer Council NSW is proud to continue its partnership with Sydney FC as the Official Charity Partner for a third consecutive year. As the partnership goes from strength to strength, it continues to expand Cancer Council's impact through initiatives such as the annual match day event. The partnership has provided valuable opportunities to connect with Sydney FC's passionate fan base.



Bridging the gap with SAX Institute

The Sax Institute is a valued research partner that helps bridge the gap between evidence and action in public health. Together, Cancer Council and the Sax Institute share a commitment to advancing and connecting evidence-based cancer prevention, research and policy, ensuring that research can be translated into meaningful improvements for people affected by cancer.



Partners of our Legal, Financial and Workplace Referral Service

Cancer Council NSW would like to acknowledge the generosity of our 500+ pro bono partners who continued to provide legal, financial and workplace support to people affected by cancer in FY26. This panel of professionals assisted 1,010 clients on a pro bono basis, equating to approximately $2.8 million in free advice and support. We are grateful for their ongoing commitment to helping ensure that people who may otherwise be unable to afford professional advice can access the support they need.

OUR THANKS

Thank you to our partners

We are deeply grateful to our philanthropic and corporate partners for their incredible support this year. Together, we are strengthening the impact of our research, prevention and support programs, and advocacy work.















































































We'd also like to thank the following foundations and individuals for their invaluable support:

Australian Philanthropic Services Foundation

Bernard and Kate Reilly

Bright Fund

CAF America

CAF UK

Colledina 5 Foundation

Community Building Partnership

Dallas Lesley

Equity Trustees

Gary Gerstle

Geoff and Dawn Connellan

Glen and Charles Loxton

Graham Webster Endowment

Gwenneth McGee Bequest

Henry Pollack Foundation

Irena Schneider Endowment

Jenny Pridham

Jim and Fran Sweeny

JLDJS Foundation

John and Maureen Sidoti

John Munro Charitable Foundation

Joyce Edith Phillips Trust

Julie Hannaford

Kate McClymont

Kelly Family Fund

King Living Foundation

Libby Boyce and Campbell Fisher (CLEEA Charitable Trust)

Maxwell Schroder

Michael and Maryrose Morgan

Mustafa and Sevim Turhan

NSW Government Mental Health Branch

Owen and Shirlie Siegel Endowment

Paracelsus Charitable Trust

Peter Baudish Family Foundation

Ritera Endowment

Sevim and Mustafa Turhan

Skipper Jacobs Charitable Trust

The Denton Family

The Greatorex Fund

The Ross Family

The White Family

Tieck Foundation

Tzedaka Foundation

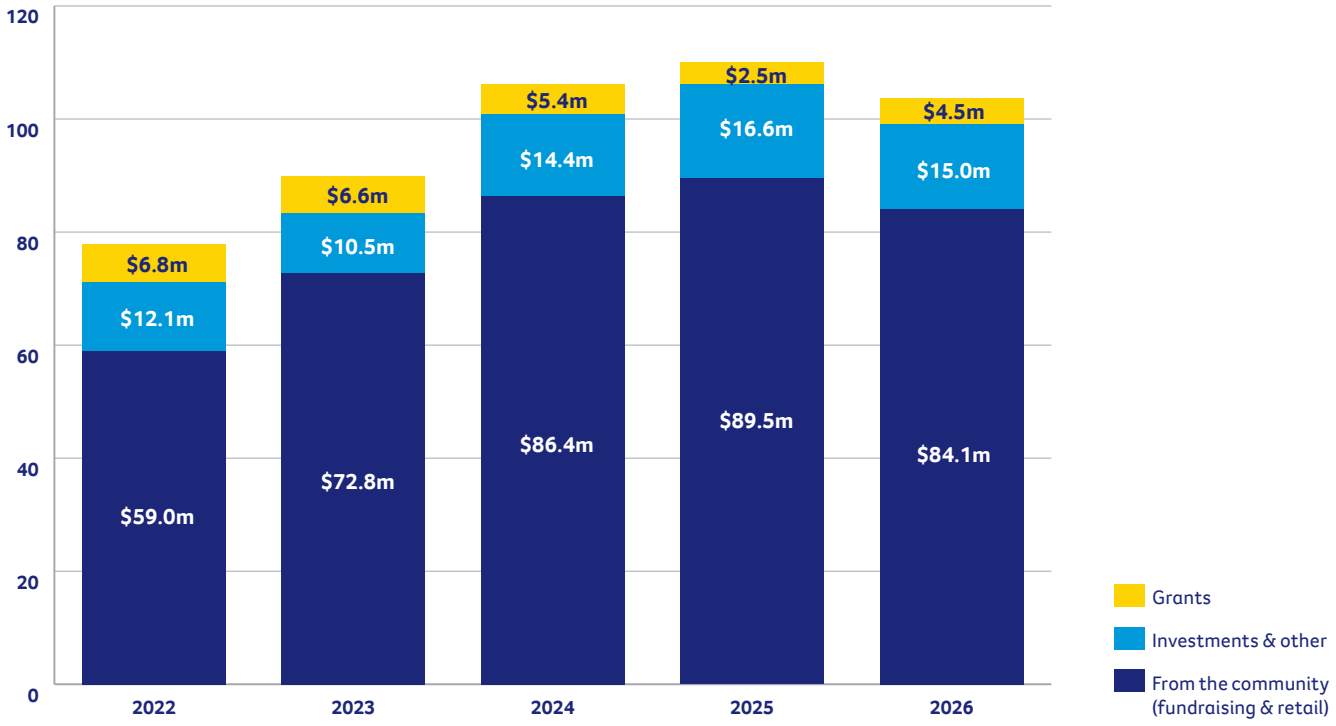
UBS Foundation

Vince Sorrenti

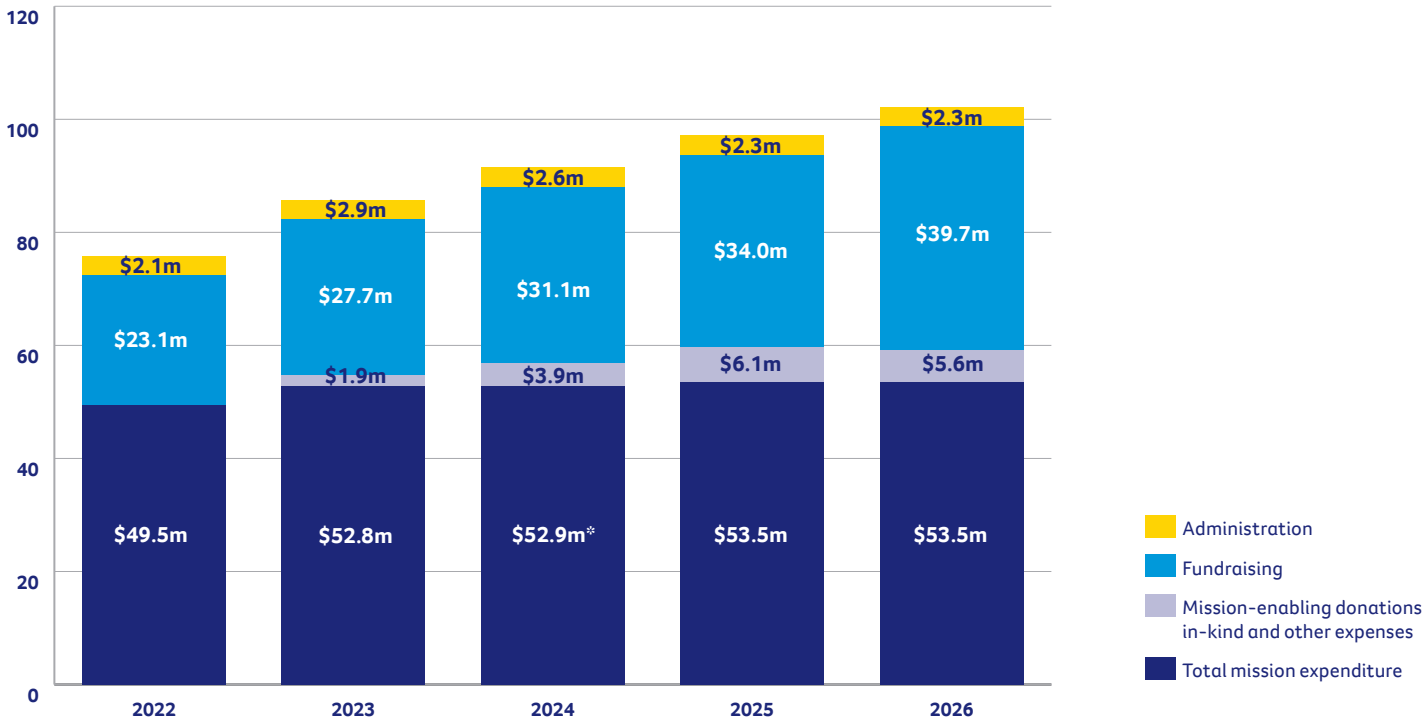
We would also like to thank the benefactors who wished to remain anonymous.



WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



HOW WE PUT THE MONEY TO WORK



This financial information is extracted from the Financial Report of Cancer Council NSW for the year ending 30 June 2026.

Cancer Council NSW

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Aboriginal Respect Symbol. Designed by Marcus Lee Design for Cancer Council NSW.