

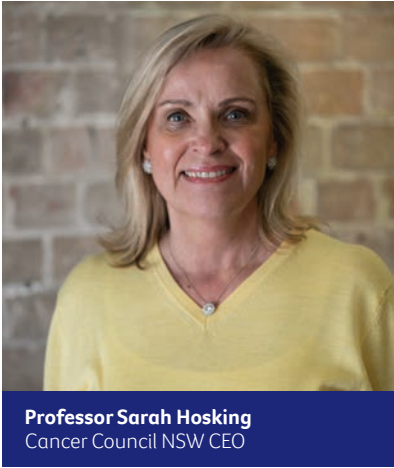


2023/2024 *Impact Report*

**Thank you for your
support this year.**



**Cancer
Council**



Thank you.

Cancer Council NSW is incredibly grateful for the community support and philanthropy which allows us to be there for people affected by cancer, from the point of diagnosis through their treatment and beyond.

With your support, this year we began work on our new ambitious 5 Year Strategy, that will deliver against our core purpose “to change the path of cancer and make sure no one walks alone”. This is achieved through investing in:

World class research, like the \$5.3 million we awarded at our 2024 Cancer Council Research Awards, allowing some of our most brilliant minds to pioneer new breakthroughs in cancer research.

Prevention and advocacy programs, for example Cancer Council’s role in advocating for recent legislative reform that put an end to the sale of disposable non-therapeutic vapes in retail stores, protecting the health of all Australians.

Reliable cancer information, our resources were accessed by people with cancer and their loved ones over 200,000 times in the last year and our support line was contacted over 9,000 times.

Thanks to advances in research, prevention, detection and treatment, more people than ever are surviving cancer. Being situated in the state with the highest proportion of cancer survivors, Cancer Council NSW was identified as the best placed organisation to lead on developing a clear and evidence-based path forward for cancer survivors. We are thrilled to have recently opened the Australian Research Centre for Cancer Survivorship, a collaboration between The University of NSW and Cancer Council NSW. This initiative will lead efforts to enhance the care and wellbeing of cancer survivors, setting a new standard in practice, services and policy not only across NSW but as a model for other Australian states and territories, as well as internationally.

As we look to the next 25 years, it is predicted that 1.5 million people will be diagnosed with cancer in NSW alone. For all those impacted by cancer directly or indirectly, it’s vital that we continue to lead the charge towards a cancer-free future by advancing life-saving research, reducing the risk of cancer by encouraging healthy behaviours and providing essential support to cancer patients and survivors.

On behalf of all of Cancer Council NSW and people affected by cancer across the state, thank you for your support as we continue to tackle cancer, together.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah Hosking". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Professor Sarah Hosking

A woman with her hair in a bun, seen from the back, holds a large bouquet of bright yellow flowers. She is wearing a dark t-shirt and a blue lanyard. The background is a blurred crowd of people at what appears to be a public event or festival, with colorful lights and structures visible.

**Tackling cancer
takes all of us.**

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 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.

Together, thanks to your generosity, it's all of us against cancer.



How your support for research saves lives.

Our Daffodil Centre* researchers have informed how the Australia's National Bowel Cancer Screening Program has developed over time.

Even though bowel cancer is the second-most common cause of cancer death, if caught early through screening, the survival rate is as high as 90%.

In 2024, we made the case to lower bowel cancer screening age eligibility from 50 to 45, which has since been supported by government, with people from age 45 eligible for opt-in screening since July 2024.

We have also helped to guide investment and support uptake of the program across Australia.

CHRIS CREDITS THE NATIONAL BOWEL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM WITH SAVING HIS LIFE.

In 2020, Chris did his third screening test, which came back positive. His doctor sent him for a colonoscopy, where they diagnosed him with stage 3 bowel cancer.

It came as a shock, as Chris hadn't experienced any real symptoms.

In January 2021, Chris had a bowel resection surgery, followed by chemotherapy treatment.

"The public system was just fantastic," Chris says. "I got into a trial to see whether I had tumour DNA in my blood. Luckily I didn't, which meant I only needed six cycles of chemotherapy, not twelve."

With treatment now finished, Chris gets regular blood tests and CT scans.

He can focus on spending time with his grandson and getting back on his beloved bicycle.

"One of my friends didn't want to do it, and I just said to him, 'What are you doing? It's so simple – and it could save your life, like it saved mine'."



*The Daffodil Centre is a joint venture between Cancer Council NSW and the University of Sydney

What you have made possible...

Thanks to your support, we were able to invest \$17.6m into world-class research in 2023/24. This includes our Daffodil Centre research in partnership with the University of Sydney, our competitive national extramural grants program, and our commitment to establish the new Australian Research Centre for Cancer Survivorship in partnership with the University of NSW.



DAFFODIL CENTRE RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023/24

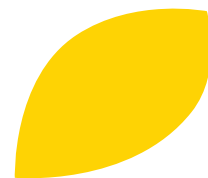
In April 2024, the Daffodil Centre celebrated three years since its establishment.

Over that period, the centre has published evidence with potential to significantly reduce cancer death rates and further improve five-year survival rates from an all-time high of 70%.

This includes analyses pivotal to:

- The Australian Government's commitment to introduce a lung cancer screening program, which was announced in the 2023-24 federal budget.
- A first ever roadmap to risk-adjusted breast cancer screening.
- The case to lower bowel cancer screening age eligibility from 50 to 45, which has since been supported by government.
- Evidence reviews to inform improved risk assessment and referral pathways for prostate and pancreatic cancers (both in development), liver cancer and other cancers.

...this year in cancer research.



FUNDING 11 GROUND-BREAKING NEW EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

Thanks to the ongoing support of Box Rallies and the Cancer Council NSW community we awarded \$4.85m to 11 ground-breaking new cancer research projects from around Australia in 2024.

The research conducted by some of Australia's most brilliant minds ranges from a new test for prostate cancer to improving radiotherapy for cancer patients in regional areas.



\$17.6m

our total investment into world-class research in 2023/24



In 2023/24, our competitive national extramural grants program supported 51 active projects involving 198 researchers across 21 institutions

How your impact goes beyond cancer research...

Cancer Council is the only charity that works across every area of every cancer, from research to prevention, support and advocacy. This work is only possible thanks to your generous support.

In 2019, we commenced our Cancer Council Liaison service, stationing four Liaisons across NSW.

Our Liaisons work in partnership with treatment teams to make sure cancer patients get connected to relevant support services.

Since then, we have expanded our team to nine, including in South Western Sydney LHD, where we have just recruited our first bilingual Liaison.

We are currently looking at creating more Liaison positions in Rural and Regional treatment centres, in line with our five-year strategic goal of improving equity in cancer outcomes.

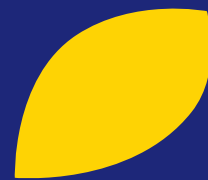


MEET MARYANN, OUR HOSPITAL LIAISON HELPING REGIONAL AND RURAL PATIENTS IN TAMWORTH

Before joining our team, Maryann worked for over 36 years as a nurse across Australia. As our Hospital Liaison in her hometown of Tamworth, she now draws on all of her knowledge and relationships to offer clients emotional support and help them navigate to the services they need.

“I get real satisfaction from helping people live their lives as well as they possibly can while they’re going through cancer. It’s about giving them as much support, power and control as possible.”

...funding life-changing programs.



A cancer diagnosis can be extremely stressful and financial issues can add additional strain. Your support enables us to help cancer patients who are experiencing financial hardship to access professional advice and support to navigate legal, financial and workplace issues.

In 2023/24, over \$2.5 million of legal, financial and workplace advice was provided by our partner pro bono professionals nationally, and almost \$350,000 of debts waived as a result of the work undertaken by our Financial Counsellors in NSW. We also provided \$1,198,659 in financial assistance payments to patients and families in acute financial hardship.'

This year, we also introduced a new Financial Navigation Service to provide tailored financial information and resources to people affected by cancer to help them understand their rights and options and make informed financial decisions.

HOW CANCER COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL COUNSELLING HELPED MARGIE THROUGH CANCER TREATMENT

When mother-of-three Margie was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer in late-2022, the financial costs of cancer surgery and treatment were daunting.

Margie needed to take lots of personal leave and was demoted from her position as supervisor.

After hearing about Cancer Council's 13 11 20 information and support line, Margie called us, not knowing what to expect.

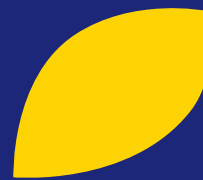
"The assistance I received made a significant impact on my life", Margie says, "They helped me prepare all the official documents I needed and helped me reach out to my bank to talk about my mortgage".

Following successful surgeries and treatments, Margie is now thriving. She has started modelling part-time and competing in pageant shows, raising awareness about cancer along the way.

"I've faced my fair share of challenges. But I've emerged stronger and more resilient than ever."



The year that was.



9,107

times our 13 11 20 information and support team were contacted by people affected by cancer, health professionals, and the general public



201,840

times our Understanding Cancer resources were distributed



47,592

listens to our cancer support and information podcasts



\$1,198,659

worth of financial assistance payments to people affected by cancer



14,386

trips by our Transport to Treatment service



980

patients and carers were connected with pro bono professionals across Australia for free advice through our Legal, Financial and Workplace Referral Services.



Of our **481** psychological counselling clients this year:

90% reported being **satisfied** or **very satisfied** with the service

89% reported feeling **more reassured**

87% reported feeling **less isolated**

90% reported being **better able to cope**



Of the **497** cancer patients who accessed our *Home Help* services this year:

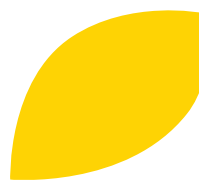
98% reported being **satisfied** or **very satisfied**

95% reported that their **practical needs** were met

88% reported that the assistance **made a difference**

88% reported that it helped them **focus on other things**

The year ahead.



Over the next 12 months we'll be getting to work on our new five-year vision.



DRIVING POLICY CHANGE THAT SAVES LIVES: AUSTRALIA'S NEW LUNG CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

Our independent research has been pivotal to the Australian Government's commitment to introduce a new lung cancer screening program targeting high risk individuals, expected to begin in July 2025.

By catching lung cancers earlier, chances of five-year relative survival can be as high as 70%, compared to 3% for late-stage lung cancers.

"It's really exciting," says Daffodil Centre researcher Associate Professor Marianne Weber says. "Hopefully we'll see a significant decrease in the number of lung cancer deaths in Australia".

Looking ahead, A/Prof Weber's team is researching the potential benefits of broadening the criteria lung cancer screening to reach more people.



LAUNCHING THE NEW AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH CENTRE FOR CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

In May 2024, the University of NSW Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Attila Brungs and our CEO Professor Sarah Hosking announced the Australian Research Centre for Cancer Survivorship (ARCCS), a new \$40m partnership between UNSW and Cancer Council NSW.

The ARCCS will co-design, evaluate and implement evidence-based interventions to improve the quality of life of people who have survived cancer.

Our CEO Professor Sarah Hosking highlights the crucial need the new research centre is designed to address.

"Thanks to advances in cancer research, prevention, early detection, and treatment, more people than ever are surviving cancer," Prof Hosking says. "The launch of the ARCCS is a vital step as we work to ensure better support, better care, and ultimately a better quality of life for cancer survivors".

*You make a real difference in the
lives of people affected by cancer.*

Thank you.

cancercouncil.com.au

**If you need to talk about cancer,
call Cancer Council on 13 11 20**



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

