

## Abstract Form

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**Title of abstract:** Influencing national application of the Optimal Care Pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer

### Background:

While Australia's cancer survival rates are among the best in the world, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to experience disparities in cancer outcomes. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples exposure to best practice care is lower compared to non-Indigenous people.

Optimal cancer care pathways describe optimal cancer care. They map the patient journey, aiming to foster an understanding of the whole pathway and its distinct components to improve cancer survival and patient experiences. Cancer Australia has developed the OCP to complement existing tumour-specific pathways to facilitate the delivery of culturally safe and competent care across the care continuum.

### Aims:

To drive national application of the Optimal Care Pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer (OCP), Cancer Australia is developing and leading a national implementation framework across Australia's multi-tiered health system.

### Method:

- Targeted stakeholder consultation with health service providers, peak professional colleges, policy makers and consumer groups, including those implementing tumour specific OCPs across the health sector.
- Development of a preliminary framework informed by consultation themes, best practice approaches to national health strategy implementation, and refinement through a stakeholder forum to maximise utility.
- Endorsement of the final framework through Cancer Australia's Leadership Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Control and all state and territory government health administrations, to ensure national application.

**Results:**

The national implementation framework was informed by consultation with over fifty stakeholders. It is, underpinned by the following principles:

- Informed by input and leadership of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander organisations and experts
- Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people are engaged in the design and delivery of initiatives
- Progress a shared, collaborative agenda across sectors and jurisdictions
- Multifaceted approach, to enable sectors and jurisdictions to implement priorities
- Complementing successful existing activities, structures and resources.

**Implications that impact on your project:**

As the national cancer control agency, Cancer Australia is driving national application and uptake of culturally appropriate best practice cancer care through the harnessing of evidence, expertise, partnerships and collaboration. To support uptake of the OCP, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need to remain at the centre of the implementing process.