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The Cancer Institute NSW implemented the Cancer Nurse Coordinator Program in 2005. This presentation describes the results of the Progress Survey of the Cancer Nurse Coordinators undertaken in 2006 to gain feedback, understand how the positions had been functioning and guide future directions for the development of the model.

A Progress Survey was developed to survey the 57 funded positions by the Cancer Institute NSW, with a 93% response rate achieved. The survey examined the provision of patient centred care, their support of multidisciplinary care, professional development and acting as a resource.

Results indicated that 71% of respondents used a tool to screen patients for psychosocial distress, and 100% of respondents provided printed information resources to patients. 82% of respondents were a member of 1 or 2 multidisciplinary teams. When asked to describe their role, recurrent themes were identified which reflected the key domains of practice for the role.

Performance indicators and measures to evaluate the role were identified by the respondents. Analysis was also undertaken about the aspects of the role that had worked well, the challenges and unexpected benefits. Results indicated that strong relationships and networks were a key strength, while common barriers perceived by respondents included issues relating to communication, role understanding and acceptance and patient referral.

Numerous Cancer Nurse Coordinators emphasised their ability to make a difference to patient care and coordination and the rewarding nature of the role.

The findings will provide a framework of areas for future development, improvement and support requirements.