



NSW CANCER PLAN 2004-2006

# Lessening the Impact of Cancer

A Two Year Progress Report: Summary

## Introduction

***The NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006 is Australia's first comprehensive State cancer plan designed for immediate implementation. Developed following wide consultation, the Cancer Plan has provided a blueprint for those attempting to defeat cancer in NSW.***

The NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006 was launched in July 2004. It was designed to bring long-term benefits to the people of NSW. It also included high impact programs which have delivered obvious immediate results.

This summary briefly outlines the achievements of the State's first cancer plan. A more complete and detailed report can be found in the companion document *NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006: Lessening the Impact of Cancer: A Two Year Progress Report*. Both this summary and the full report are available from the Cancer Institute NSW website [www.cancerinstitute.org.au](http://www.cancerinstitute.org.au) or from the Cancer Institute NSW.

## Cancer in NSW

***The need for a plan with such focus on cancer is even more evident today. The number of people affected by cancer is increasing in both men and women as our population ages and grows. The Cancer Institute NSW estimates that the lifetime risk of cancer is now one in two men and one in three women.***

The Cancer Institute NSW predicts that by 2011 over 40,000 people will be diagnosed each year with cancer or a 24% increase since 2003. The NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006 is aimed at reducing cancer incidence and providing better, smarter models of care for the large numbers of cancer patients expected in future years. The Cancer Institute NSW has predicted that by 2011, two thirds of cancer patients will be cancer survivors.

While cancer numbers are going up, the cancer incidence per head of population is falling in men and has slowed substantially in women. Cancer death rates are falling by 17% in men and 12% in women over the last 10 years. However, death rates are still unacceptably high with over 12,000 deaths from cancer each year in NSW.

## **The Cancer Institute (NSW) Act 2003**

***To specifically address the heavy burden of cancer on the well being of our community the NSW Government established the Cancer Institute NSW under the Cancer Institute (NSW) Act 2003.***

The *Cancer Institute NSW Act 2003* was passed unanimously by the NSW Parliament on 20 June 2003 and assented to on 30 June 2003.

Over the last 24 months the Cancer Institute NSW has established itself as an organisation with the capabilities to fulfil its obligations under the Act.



## Developing the NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006

***The NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006 is a comprehensive blueprint for action with immediate and long-term benefits for the people of NSW.***

In each major cancer program, surveys and analyses have provided information to identify areas of greatest need. Such needs have driven the consultation and the formulation of the NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006 and its subsequent implementation. While the Cancer Institute NSW has had primary responsibility for the Plan, its benefits reflect the cooperation and work of NSW Health, Area Health Services and all stakeholders.

The programs now established by the NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006 are designed to substantially increase the chances of avoiding or surviving cancer.

The NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006 has delivered a comprehensive range of new programs in cancer prevention, cancer screening and early detection, health services, education and training, cancer research and cancer information. The impact of these new programs is now being felt across NSW.

## Cancer prevention

### **Achievements of the Cancer Prevention Programs:**

- ◆ Smoking prevalence is now the lowest recorded in NSW with only 15.7% of adults smoking every day (14.3% of women and 17.2% of men). Overall smoking rates (daily and occasional smokers) have fallen by 2.2% from 22.3% to 20.1% in the last two years.
- ◆ Calls to the Quitline have more than doubled since 2003.
- ◆ 80-90% of smokers in NSW were aware of the Cancer Institute NSW's Excuses campaign messages.
- ◆ The intention to quit among NSW smokers surveyed has increased to 66%.
- ◆ The number of attempts to quit has increased with over 100,000 smokers giving up over the last two years.
- ◆ Support for smokers trying to quit has increased with more funding to the Quitline.



***A major focus of the NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006 is the public anti-tobacco campaigns aimed at reinforcing quitting behaviour amongst smokers. The nine successful campaigns and other initiatives have changed our community's attitude to smoking. Overall smoking rates have fallen by 2.2% from 22.3% to 20.1% in the last two years.***

The number of adults in NSW who smoke every day is now only 15.7%. The fall has been greatest in women where only 14.3% of adult women now smoke everyday compared to 17% of adult men.

Calls to the Quitline have more than doubled since 2003 with calls to the Quitline twice as frequent for women. Smoking is disappearing from pubs and clubs, with expected health benefits for staff and patrons.

It is estimated that around 100,000 smokers (or 10%) have quit in the last two years. There are now more people in NSW who have quit smoking than are currently smoking.

This decline will have a substantial impact on the \$6.7 billion smoking costs in NSW each year. The reduction in smoking rates of 2.2% achieved under this Plan are estimated to save NSW between \$1-2.5 billion over the next 20 years.



## Cancer screening

### **Achievements of the Cancer Screening Programs :**

- ◆ Breast cancer death rates have fallen by 22% in the last 10 years with screening largely responsible for this fall.
- ◆ Breast cancer screening program has been rejuvenated in NSW with additional funding, staff, a new quality program and a new public breast cancer screening awareness campaign has been developed.
- ◆ Women who benefit most (aged 50-69 years) are participating more in breast cancer screening with 50.7% participating in June 2005 and 53% in April 2006.
- ◆ Cervical cancer incidence has fallen by 46% and death rates by 52% in the last 10 years in large part, due to screening.
- ◆ Cervical cancer screening program is being rejuvenated with a new cervical cancer screening awareness program to be rolled out and new NHMRC guidelines introduced to general practitioners.
- ◆ Bowel cancer screening will be introduced into NSW based on evidence it could reduce deaths from bowel cancer by 15-30% when fully implemented.
- ◆ New screening methods in other cancers have been monitored.
- ◆ Programs to research new screening and early detection methods for prostate cancer and melanoma have been established by the Cancer Institute NSW.

***Cancer screening for breast and cervical cancer has had a major impact on death rates in these cancers over the last 10 years. Cancer death rates have declined by 22% for breast cancer and 52% for cervical cancer in the last 10 years largely attributed to successful breast and cervical screening.***





***This has provided the incentive to further improve participation rates for women who will benefit the most. The screening programs for breast and cervical cancers are currently being reorganised and invigorated.***

For breast cancer screening a new campaign has been developed to increase public awareness of screening. Reviews are underway to improve business practices and to make these services more responsive to women's needs. These improvements should encourage more women in the target age group 50-69 years to participate in routine breast cancer screening. Since July 2005 participation in breast cancer screening programs has increased from 50.7% to 53%.

Each year in NSW, over 1600 people die of bowel cancer and sadly only 60% will live five years beyond their diagnosis. Substantial reductions in deaths from bowel cancer are expected as bowel cancer screening is progressively introduced over the next few years. From clinical trials, it is estimated that the death rate from bowel cancer could fall by 15-30% in NSW when this program is fully implemented. Bowel cancer screening will be introduced into NSW in 2006.

## **Cancer services**

### ***Achievements of the Cancer Services Program:***

- ◆ NSW Oncology Groups were established and began work.
- ◆ Cancer services structure was established or strengthened in all Area Health Services in NSW.
- ◆ General practice cancer program was established within 10 Divisions of General Practice.
- ◆ Multi-disciplinary cancer care teams were established or strengthened across NSW.
- ◆ Increased funding was provided for the transport of cancer patients from rural areas to specialised cancer care.

- ◆ Reviews of ambulatory care, workforce, services and psycho-oncology services were completed.
- ◆ Complementary therapies information program was established and a review was completed.
- ◆ Audit of cancer services against the Clinical Services Framework showed considerable improvement.

***A major need identified for our cancer services is better coordinated care. Cancer care is now being coordinated by over 55 new oncology nurse coordinators in many centres. Breast care nurses are now well established and act role as and models for other types of cancer.***

Multi-disciplinary teams of cancer experts have been established or expanded with 118 teams supported across the State. Multi-disciplinary teams will participate in case conferences to bring all expert opinions to the individual patient's care. This approach will encourage all treatment options to be considered and promote the best practice of care.

The Cancer Institute NSW has provided targeted funding to improve the access of rural patients to cancer services. This funding will provide support for rural cancer patients to travel to cancer care services and will increase the reimbursement per kilometre travelled.

## **Better skilled health professionals**

### ***Achievements of the Professional Development Program:***

- ◆ 245 new frontline positions have been established in NSW Hospitals for cancer doctors, nurses, clinical psychologists, social workers and data managers.
- ◆ A new role of cancer nurse coordinator has been created with 55 new nurses in metropolitan and rural health services in these positions.



- ◆ Psycho-oncology teams have been established or enhanced to provide better psycho-social, emotional and practical patient support in all Area Health Services with 28 new positions for social workers and clinical psychologists established.
- ◆ A new generation of cancer specialists have been trained with 29 clinical and psycho-oncology fellowships awarded across NSW.
- ◆ The radiotherapy workforce has been substantially increased, with four new academic posts created and 108 new radiotherapy trainees supported.
- ◆ Cancer nursing scholarships have supported 12 nurses to enrol in specialised cancer nursing courses and 17 travel grants have supported nurses and others to attend scientific meetings of new approaches to care.

***The NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006 has delivered over 245 new frontline positions for cancer health professionals in NSW. These include doctors, nurses, clinical psychologists, social workers and clinical trials nurses.***

The next generation of cancer specialist doctors is being trained and supported across NSW with 24 new clinical fellowships. New positions have also been established for 28 new health professionals to provide psycho-social, emotional and practical support for those undergoing cancer treatment in hospitals across NSW. Five new psycho-oncology fellowships have been established.

## **Improving technology used in cancer care**

### **Achievements of the Cancer Technology Program:**

- ◆ Medical equipment grants to hospitals across NSW of \$3.98 million over the last two years.
- ◆ Radiotherapy equipment grants of \$8.5 million for new radiotherapy technology, planning systems and positioning systems over the last two years.
- ◆ Tele-health grants of \$930,000 for health professionals to case conference and to receive continuing professional education at remote sites.
- ◆ New IT grants for ambulatory cancer care units of \$1 million.



***A more rapid uptake of enabling technology has been identified as a high priority area by cancer experts and their patients. A clear area of need is radiotherapy equipment and technology to allow greater improvements in treatment delivery, to reduce complications, to more accurately target cancers and to improve patient access to radiotherapy services.***

Medical technology, radiotherapy equipment, tele-medicine links and information technology have been expanded and strategically placed to improve cancer care.

## **Cancer information**

### ***Achievements of the Cancer Information Program:***

- ◆ Completion of a Cancer Information Strategy for NSW to define the information needs in cancer.
- ◆ Improvements in reporting cancer incidence and mortality, with new reports including projections of cancer; analysis of cancer risk factors across NSW and cancer survival outcomes in more detail.
- ◆ Development of the Clinical Cancer Registry in NSW to report the individual patient's journey through cancer treatment.
- ◆ Establishment of a standard cancer treatment website with over 150,000 hits per month and improved access to an additional 33 cancer journals and 16 cancer textbooks for health professionals.
- ◆ Joint cancer information program for patients and carers established between The Cancer Council NSW and the Cancer Institute NSW.

***New information has been made available to doctors, nurses and the public through the Cancer Institute NSW Standard Cancer Treatment site (CI-SCaT). CI-SCaT has over 200 'state-of-the-art' standard cancer treatments and receives over 150,000 hits per month.***

These treatment protocols list the evidence behind each treatment and include a patient treatment sheet in plain English that can be downloaded for the patient.

Preliminary work has been done to establish a Clinical Cancer Registry in five of the eight Area Health Services. The National Minimum Data Set for Clinical Cancer Registration is being collected, documenting the actual patient journey through cancer treatment. Reporting of this information has begun and it will enable us to identify how and where to further improve results in the future.

## **Cancer research**

### ***Achievements of the Cancer Research Program:***

- ◆ An independent, interstate Research Grants Review Committee has been established with published standard operating procedures and criteria for research grant allocations.
- ◆ Supporting cancer researchers:
  - ◆ Number of cancer patients on clinical trials increased by 50% in 12 months.
  - ◆ Two new Chairs of Cancer Research established.
  - ◆ 27 new Cancer Research Fellowships established.
  - ◆ 38 PhD Student Scholarships supported.
  - ◆ One Health Service Research Fellowship awarded.
- ◆ Supporting cancer clinical trials in NSW hospitals:
  - ◆ 29 clinical trials nurses and data managers provided.
  - ◆ Support for five national trials groups based in NSW.
  - ◆ Support for trials statistics and operations via NHMRC Trials Centre, Sydney.
  - ◆ Support for auditing of clinical trials and units.
  - ◆ Agreement for a joint cancer trials program with The Cancer Council NSW completed.

- ◆ Supporting key enabling cancer research infrastructure:
  - ◆ 26 infrastructure grants awarded.
  - ◆ 11 research equipment grants awarded.
  - ◆ Review of the key infrastructure platforms of genomics, proteomics, imaging and tissue banking completed.
- ◆ Supporting “bench to bedside” translation of new research discoveries into patient care in the areas of prostate cancer, melanoma and targeted therapy established.
- ◆ Research Roundtable established involving funders, government, charities and researchers.
- ◆ Research Awards Night established.

***Cancer research offers the best hope of further accelerating the decline in cancer death rates, ensuring more effective screening and improving our ability to prevent or treat cancer. The NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006 has invested in the best and most successful cancer researchers in NSW with an emphasis on applying research discoveries directly to patient care.***

A review of cancer research in NSW by the Cancer Institute NSW has provided a rationale to build essential research infrastructure and a skilled research workforce. Twenty-eight new research fellowships have been created, including five clinical and one health services research fellowships. Thirty-eight PhD students are supported in NSW. Two new professorial posts in cancer research have been created under the NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006.

The NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006 has substantially increased the capacity of NSW to quickly translate research discoveries into better treatments and cancer prevention. Infrastructure grants have supported 26 cancer research programs.



New research programs have been created to translate new discoveries into patient care in prostate cancer, melanoma and targeted cancer therapy. These programs will focus on the early identification of those at risk of cancer, screening and new therapies for cancer.

A new clinical trials network has been established, supporting 29 trials units across NSW to test promising new anti-cancer treatments and make them available to cancer patients as quickly as possible. Partnerships with the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre and The Cancer Council NSW has enabled clinical researchers to access statistics and operational support and broadened the support for clinical research.

While such investment in cancer research promises great benefit in the longer term, already new therapies, new approaches and a new culture of innovation and research is emerging in NSW hospitals from that support.

A number of reviews of cancer research in NSW have been completed. These include a review of key research infrastructure platforms including genomics, proteomics, imaging and tissue banking.

## **A cohesive approach to cancer control**

***Perhaps the most important achievement of the NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006 is that it has brought together many hundreds of patients, carers, health professionals, researchers, government officials, charities and planners to combine their efforts to beat cancer. Over 400 such people had input into the design of the Plan, serving on committees, and attending workshops advising on its implementation and evaluation.***

This focussed and collaborative effort has greatly assisted the aspiration to defeat cancer. Such broad involvement in the Plan has ensured that the cancer programs being implemented under the NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006 are relevant, are addressing real needs and are most likely to achieve better results through collaboration.

In 2006, The Cancer Council NSW and the Cancer Institute NSW agreed to work collaboratively with joint programs in cancer clinical trials, patient information and in patient support. This important collaboration should bring improved support for cancer patients and their families.

We have learnt many lessons from the implementation of this cancer program that are unique to NSW. These lessons and the many reviews above initiated by the Cancer Institute NSW have identified key areas of important need for further improvement as a focus for the next four years. The NSW Cancer Plan 2007-2010 will target these vital areas of need and will be built on the solid foundation of the NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006.



## Appendix I

### NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006: Summary and Outcomes

#### Programs

#### COORDINATION OF CANCER CONTROL PROGRAMS

##### 1.1 NSW Oncology Groups:

- ◆ 20 State-wide groups established.
- ◆ Projects of high priority are under development.

##### 1.2 Cancer Coordination Forum:

- ◆ Established, met on eight occasions and is coordinating cancer planning and communication within the government health sector.

##### 1.3 Cancer Support Groups Working Party:

- ◆ Patient Support Groups Working Party established.
- ◆ Cancer Consumer Forum met and provided advice on key cancer issues.
- ◆ Cancer Charities Round Table met to develop a voluntary code of conduct for fundraising.
- ◆ NSW Joint Patient Support Advisory Committee established between The Cancer Council NSW and the Cancer Institute NSW.

##### 1.4 NSW Joint Cancer Control Advisory Committee has been established between The Cancer Council NSW and the Cancer Institute NSW.

#### CANCER PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION

##### 2.1 Community education about the consequences of smoking:

- ◆ Nine mass media campaigns on smoking launched.
- ◆ Quitline calls have more than doubled since 2003.
- ◆ Smoking rates in NSW have dropped by 2.2% from 22.3% in 2003 to 20.1% in 2005.
- ◆ Smoking rates for adults in NSW who smoke every day is down to 15.7% (14.3% in women and 17.2% in men).

## **2.2 National and NSW Tobacco Implementation Strategies:**

- ◆ Quitline transferred to the Cancer Institute NSW and expanded.
- ◆ Tobacco Action Plan for NSW completed.
- ◆ Legislation enacted in NSW to ban smoking in clubs and pubs by 2 July 2007.

## **3.1 Cancer Risk Reduction Programs:**

- ◆ Melanoma campaign launched.
- ◆ Breast cancer screening awareness program developed to increase participation in breast cancer screening.
- ◆ Cervical cancer screening awareness program developed.
- ◆ Bowel cancer screening awareness program developed.

## **3.2 Schools Cancer Program:**

- ◆ Rock Eisteddfod Program supported.
- ◆ NSW Health Schools Program supported.

## **4 NSW Bowel Cancer Screening Program:**

- ◆ Review of colonoscopy, pathology and anaesthetics services underway.
- ◆ Bowel cancer screening implementation plan developed.

## **5 Monitoring and evaluation of new cancer screening programs:**

- ◆ Evaluation of clinical trials in lung cancer, melanoma and prostate cancer screening completed.
- ◆ Research on screening attendance completed.

## **6 BreastScreen NSW and Cervical Screening Programs:**

- ◆ Breast and cervical cancer screening programs transferred to the Cancer Institute NSW in July 2005.
- ◆ Programs re-structured, business systems improved and quality monitoring reviewed.
- ◆ Participation rates in BreastScreen NSW program increased within the target age groups from 50.7% to 53% in nine months.

### **7.1 General Practice Liaison Unit:**

- ◆ General practice program established at the Cancer Institute NSW.
- ◆ Contract established with the Alliance of Divisions of General Practice.

### **7.2 General Practice Cancer Prevention and Surveillance Programs:**

- ◆ General practice workshop completed.
- ◆ Projects and cancer leads established in Divisions of General Practice.
- ◆ Three general practice workshops on prostate cancer completed.

## **CANCER SERVICE PROVISION – THE PATIENT’S JOURNEY**

### **8.1 Early cancer detection and diagnostic aids program:**

- ◆ General practice program for new NHMRC Guidelines for cervical screening.
- ◆ New breast cancer screening awareness program developed.
- ◆ PSA information kit trialled in general practice.
- ◆ Workshop held on “Existing Diagnostic Aids and Barriers to Optimal Use”.

### **8.2 NSW Directory of Cancer Services:**

- ◆ Publication of Directories of Support Services and Accommodation available.
- ◆ Register of NSW multi-disciplinary teams and treatment centres developed.
- ◆ Directory of services available in NSW hospitals developed.

### **9.1 Area-wide approach to optimising cancer care:**

- ◆ Establishment of eight Directors of Cancer Services in Area Health Services.
- ◆ Establishment of eight Cancer Services Development Managers in Area Health Services.
- ◆ Data provided by the Central Cancer Registry for cancer services plans for each Area Health Service.
- ◆ Audit completed in all Area Health Services of compliance with the Optimising Cancer Care in NSW framework.

## **9.2 Lead Clinician Program:**

- ◆ Established with 15 doctors recruited.
- ◆ Lead Clinicians contributing to relevant NSWOG committee programs.

## **10.1 Cancer Nurse Coordinators Program:**

- ◆ Established with 55 cancer nurse coordinators in position across NSW.
- ◆ Communications Training Skills provided to Nurse Coordinators.
- ◆ Professional needs analysis surveys completed by newly appointed Cancer Nurse Coordinators.

## **10.2 Cancer Services Collaboratives:**

- ◆ Service improvement projects in progress in radiotherapy departments across NSW.

## **10.3 The Cancer Patient Care Plan:**

- ◆ Draft treatment plan in development.
- ◆ Information sheets in plain English available from the Standard Treatment Protocol Website (CI-SCaT).
- ◆ Nurses reference group reviewing available patient information with the CI-SCaT team.



### **11.1 Cancer Patient Support Working Party:**

- ◆ Established in 2004.
- ◆ NSW Joint Patient Support Working Party being established between the Cancer Council NSW and the Cancer Institute NSW in 2006.
- ◆ Public forums held around NSW to provide feedback on patient support.
- ◆ Review of psycho-oncology services needs completed.

### **11.2 Area psycho-oncology teams program:**

- ◆ 28 new positions established for social workers and clinical psychologists in cancer treatment programs in Area Health Services.
- ◆ Decision tool for appropriate referral for psychological support being piloted.
- ◆ Communication Skills Training given to Area psycho-oncology teams.

### **11.3 The NSW Cancer Volunteer Network:**

- ◆ Agreement with The Cancer Council NSW to support their work with volunteers in hospitals and with cancer consumers.

### **12.1 Multi-disciplinary care and peer review programs:**

- ◆ Educational forums on optimal multi-disciplinary teams conducted with the National Breast Cancer Centre.
- ◆ Tele-medicine links for multi-disciplinary teams funding \$950,000.
- ◆ Expansion or establishment of 118 multi-disciplinary teams in NSW hospitals with new funding of \$1.46 million.
- ◆ Key performance indicators for multi-disciplinary teams established.

### **12.2 Area oncology team meetings:**

- ◆ Directors of Cancer Services funded to conduct management and planning meetings.
- ◆ Specific grants from the Cancer Institute NSW to establish meetings of the whole cancer stream across each Area Health Service in NSW.

### **13 Standard Cancer Treatment Protocols Program:**

- ◆ Standard Cancer Treatments (CI-SCaT) established with over 200 standard treatment protocols, patient information sheets, nursing orders and the evidence underpinning each standard treatment.
- ◆ Use of the website expanding, with over 150,000 hits per month.

#### **14 The 'Cancer Link' General Practitioner Program:**

- ◆ Role for cancer nurse coordinators to liaise with general practitioners defined.
- ◆ General practice liaison program provided by the Cancer Institute NSW.

### **SPECIAL ISSUES IN CANCER CARE**

#### **A. Access to cancer care programs:**

##### **15.1 Ambulatory Cancer Care Centres Review:**

- ◆ Review completed.

##### **15.2 Medical oncology, haematology and palliative care workforce review:**

- ◆ Establishment of NSW Medical Oncology and Haematology Clinical Information Systems Strategy.
- ◆ Medical oncology and haematology review completed. Palliative care review underway.

##### **15.3 The Cancer Drugs Review:**

- ◆ Standard treatment protocols (CI-SCaT) drug usage under review.
- ◆ Standard treatment reporting in the Clinical Cancer Registry.
- ◆ Review of use of high cost cancer drugs underway.

##### **15.4 The Surgical Oncology Workforce Review:**

- ◆ Review completed.



### **15.5 Imaging Technology Access Review:**

- ◆ Review of access to PET scanning completed.
- ◆ Consultation with the Department of Health and Aged Care, Canberra on PET scanning.
- ◆ Access to PET program in Hunter New England Area Health Service expanded.

### **15.6 The Tumour Pathology Review:**

- ◆ State-wide Pathology NSWOG group established.
- ◆ Three new Clinical Fellowships in Anatomical Pathology and one in haematology funded.

## **B. Radiotherapy**

### **16.1 Radiotherapy Equipment Program:**

- ◆ Review of equipment needs with Directors of Radiation Department and NSW Health
- ◆ \$8.5 million in new radiotherapy equipment funded in the last two years.

### **16.2 The Radiotherapy Workforce Program:**

- ◆ 108 Professional Development Year (PDY) training positions supported (2005 and 2006).
- ◆ Four academic posts in radiation sciences created.
- ◆ Four new clinical fellowships in radiation oncology funded.

### **16.3 Quality improvement in radiotherapy:**

- ◆ Workshop on Radiotherapy Quality completed.
- ◆ Business practice collaboratives begun in Radiation Oncology Departments.

### **16.4 Radiotherapy information review:**

- ◆ Review completed.

### **16.5 Access to radiotherapy services review:**

- ◆ Radiotherapy access included in rural access review and the Radiotherapy Management Information Systems Report.
- ◆ Radiotherapy Joint Advisory Committee commenced the development of the NSW Radiotherapy Strategic Plan 2006-2011 with NSW Health.

## **C. Rural oncology review**

### **17.1 Rural Access Review:**

- ◆ Completed.

### **17.2 Rural-city cancer partnerships program:**

- ◆ Cancer Nurse Coordinators to coordinate care between cities and rural areas.
- ◆ Cancer Services Development Managers provided.
- ◆ Rural representation on NSW Oncology Groups.
- ◆ Increased travel assistance down to 100km with new funding.
- ◆ Australian Government funding obtained to enhance rural involvement in the NSW Oncology Groups (NSWOG).

### **17.3 Rural Cancer Nurse Coordinators Program:**

- ◆ 19 nurses have been recruited in rural areas.

## **D. Cancer genetics services**

### **18.1 State-wide protocols for cancer genetics:**

- ◆ NSWOG Cancer Genetics group established.
- ◆ State-wide cancer genetics protocols are being developed for review by a panel of experts.

### **18.2 Cancer Genetics Service Review:**

- ◆ A review of cancer genetics services in NSW is underway.

## **E. Palliative care and symptom control**

### **19.1 The integrated palliative care program:**

- ◆ State-wide NSWOG Palliative Care group established.
- ◆ Palliative care protocols are being reviewed for posting on the CI-SCaT website.
- ◆ Chair in Palliative Care is being established.
- ◆ Review of palliative care services underway.
- ◆ Documentation of better practice models and key indicators in palliative care underway.
- ◆ Funding provided for a palliative care database.
- ◆ Palliative care clinical research group established.

## 19.2 Palliative radiotherapy review:

- ◆ Review of palliative radiotherapy and relevant benchmarks is underway in collaboration with NSW Health.

## F. Complementary therapies

### 20.1 Complementary Therapies information program:

- ◆ NSWOG Complimentary Therapies committee established.
- ◆ Information program established as a web based resource.
- ◆ Complementary Therapies Seminar completed.

### 20.2 Complementary Therapies Access review:

- ◆ Completed.

## CANCER INFORMATION PROGRAMS

### 21.1 Cancer Information Strategy:

- ◆ Cancer Information Strategy completed and priority programs established.

### 21.2 Cancer Institute NSW website:

- ◆ Interim site built.
- ◆ Final site under construction.

### 21.3 Information for the community, patients, their families and carers:

- ◆ A-Z Directories of Cancer Publications, Patient Accommodation and Support Groups published.
- ◆ NSW Joint Patient Information Advisory Committee established with The Cancer Council NSW and the Cancer Institute NSW.
- ◆ Fact sheets and news releases developed.



#### **21.4 Cancer research information and data for clinicians, researchers and population health practitioners:**

- ◆ Reporting module for the Central Cancer Registry on website.
- ◆ New reports available on cancer incidence, risk factors, cancer survival projections, extent of spread and data from smokers' survey.
- ◆ Over 16 new books and 33 new cancer journals made available to health professionals on the web.
- ◆ Key worldwide research websites made available to NSW cancer researchers.

#### **21.5 Cancer service information:**

- ◆ Two Cancer Services Reports completed in 2004 and 2005.

#### **22.1 The Central Cancer Registry:**

- ◆ Registry moved to the Cancer Institute NSW while maintaining function.
- ◆ New reports on projections, risk factors, survival and extent of disease.

#### **22.2 The Clinical Cancer Registry:**

- ◆ Clinical Cancer Registry developed in five of eight Area Health Services.
- ◆ Reporting of clinical data based on a minimum data set begun.

### **CANCER EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

#### **23.1 The continuing professional education review:**

- ◆ Review Completed.
- ◆ Travel Grants Program established.
- ◆ Basic Science of Oncology Program conducted 2005 and 2006.
- ◆ Conference diary available on the Cancer Institute NSW website.
- ◆ 24 clinical fellowships established for cancer specialists.
- ◆ Five psycho-oncology fellowships established.

### **23.2 Cancer nurse professional development programs and review:**

- ◆ Review completed.
- ◆ 12 nurse scholarships provided.
- ◆ 17 health professionals supported with competitive funding to key educational meetings.

## **CANCER WORKFORCE PROGRAMS**

### **24.1 Specialised cancer workforce review:**

- ◆ Review completed.

### **24.2 The rotating specialist registrar review:**

- ◆ Planning ongoing with NSW Health, specialist colleges, the Medical Training Education Committee and other stakeholders.

## **CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

### **25.1 The research leaders program:**

- ◆ Two Professors of Cancer Research established.

### **25.2 The research fellowships program:**

- ◆ 27 Research Fellowships established including 5 clinical fellowships

### **25.3 The research and training scholarship program:**

- ◆ 38 PhD students supported

## **26 The clinical trials program:**

- ◆ 29 Clinical trials units supported.
- ◆ Five national cancer trials groups supported.
- ◆ Partnership with the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre (operations and statistics).
- ◆ Partnership with The Cancer Council NSW to amalgamate the Cancer Institute NSW Clinical Trials Group and the Cancer Trials NSW program.
- ◆ Partnerships with Kendle Pty Ltd. for auditing trials and standard operating procedures.

### **27.1 Centralised cancer research ethical review:**

- ◆ Two Research Ethics Committees being established

### **27.2 The cancer epidemiology and services research program:**

- ◆ One Health Service Fellowship awarded.
- ◆ Patterns of care studies in four cancers: melanoma, lung, prostate and bowel cancer.
- ◆ Costings and linkage units being established with NSW Health.

### **27.3 The cancer infrastructure program:**

- ◆ 26 research infrastructure grants awarded in Round 1.
- ◆ 11 research equipment grants awarded in Round 2.

### **28 NSW research funding program:**

- ◆ An independent interstate Research Grants Review Committee and standard operating procedures established at the Cancer Institute NSW.
- ◆ The Cancer Council NSW and the Cancer Institute NSW agreement to develop a common grant allocation process.



### **29.1 Program grants:**

- ◆ Three translational program grants have been awarded including:
  - ◆ Prostate cancer risk assessment using genomic and epigenomics.
  - ◆ Melanoma risk using clinical and genomic surveillance.
  - ◆ Targeted therapy in cancer treatment.

### **29.2 Project grants:**

- ◆ Project grants have been incorporated into successful fellowship applications.

### **30.1 Travelling research fellowships:**

- ◆ Expressions of interest developed and advertised.

### **30.2 The international collaborator program:**

- ◆ Established with four overseas institutions.

### **31 The business liaison program:**

- ◆ Partnerships developed for the Cancer Research Awards.
- ◆ Workshop and Roundtable completed.



## **QUALITY AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS**

### **32 The quality accreditation program:**

- ◆ Quality and Clinical Effectiveness Committee established.
- ◆ Key quality programs undertaken.

## **CANCER FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS**

### **33 Cancer Support Groups Register:**

- ◆ Cancer Charities Roundtable established.
- ◆ Register of cancer organisations and charities being established.
- ◆ Cancer Charities code of conduct agreed in principle and under development.

NSW CANCER PLAN 2004-2006

# Lessening the Impact of Cancer

A Two Year Progress Report: Summary