



Australian Brain Cancer Mission – Roadmap

The Australian Brain Cancer Mission is an initiative of the Australian Government in collaboration with [Funding Partners](#). The Mission is investing \$126.4 million over 10 years from 2017-18 to support research into brain cancer. This consists of \$50 million from the Australian Government through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) and \$76.4 million to date in commitments from the Funding Partners.

Australia celebrates the fact that survival for many high incidence cancers has improved over the last 30 years, but the same has not occurred for brain cancers. While patient care and support has improved, the five-year relative survival rate for brain cancer remains low, at around 23 per cent.¹

There are more than 100 types of brain and other central nervous system cancers, and they carry high rates of morbidity and mortality with brain cancer being the ninth most common cause of death from cancer¹. Young people are disproportionately affected by brain cancer, with brain cancer being the leading cause of cancer-related deaths for those under 25 years of age.

Australia is a substantial contributor to brain cancer research and a recognised global leader. However, rare cancers, such as brain cancer, necessitate international collaboration to combine study groups and maximise discovery impact. The establishment of the Mission demonstrates the Australian Government and brain cancer sector's commitment to boost the level of funding dedicated to Australian brain cancer research.

Scope

The Mission will make investments in research to achieve:

- improved patient survival, quality of life and care experiences
- advancement in the fundamental understanding of brain cancer
- increased and equitable access and participation in clinical trials
- expanded research platforms and technologies
- improved healthcare services
- increased researcher capacity and excellence
- stronger partnerships between academia, industry and community and charities.

Our goal

Transformative improvement to the quality and length of life of people with brain cancer, with the longer term aim of defeating brain cancer.

Our Mission

The Mission will contribute to achieving this goal by concentrating research efforts into areas of critical importance and areas not already targeted through existing initiatives.

¹ [Cancer Australia - Brain Cancer in Australia Statistics](#)

Funding principles

The following principles apply to activities funded under the Mission:

- Research is essential for the improvement of healthcare
- Patients, those with lived experience, and carers are partners in healthcare and research
- Equity of care and research access regardless of social, economic or geographic circumstance is vital
- Consistent adherence to best practice by health professionals is critical to reducing variability in health outcomes
- Funding should encourage and facilitate domestic and international collaboration to consolidate expertise and dedicate effort
- Multidisciplinary collaborations (for example oncology, neurology, neurosurgery, radiology, radiation-oncology, immunology, biology, bioinformatics, neuroscience) is paramount
- Attracting talent to the field of study will lift Australia's capacity to make an impact
- National clinical trial operating capacity, data and infrastructure support will enhance collaboration, translation and impact
- Disease heterogeneity and differences between the paediatric and adult brain cancer experience makes it unlikely there will be a single cure, therefore persistence and resilience must be maintained
- Investment must focus on the best ideas and talent, and opportunities for impact.

Aims

- 1) Improve understanding of brain cancer biology
- 2) Improve survival for children and adults with brain cancer
- 3) Improve quality of life for people affected by brain cancer