

SA Cancer Service

Statewide Survivorship Framework Brief

Primary Health Care Providers

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the South Australian Survivorship Framework that is currently being developed and outline opportunities for Primary Health Care Providers to inform the Framework.

The role of Primary Health Care Providers in Survivorship Care

Primary Health Care Providers (PHCP) have an integral role in survivorship care, supporting with ongoing care and management of existing medical conditions as well as future needs and preventative strategies for survivors. PHCP are often the first point of call survivors will access if they become unwell or symptomatic during treatment or beyond (potential recurrence or new primary cancer). Recognising this in conjunction with potential challenges PHCP may experience in providing support to patients throughout and after the cancer pathway, the Statewide Survivorship Project Team now need to actively engage with GPs, Practice Nurses and Allied Health Professionals to maximise potential to collaborate and better inform the development of the Framework.

Background Information

Traditionally survivorship care has focussed predominantly on late-effects, surveillance and follow-up provided by cancer specialists. It is becoming increasingly recognised that survivors have additional needs that aren't currently being met that impact on their quality of life and health outcomes. These include the physical, psychosocial and economic impact of cancer and treatment; the prevention and/or management of co-morbidities as well as general health and well-being. A need to review the provision of survivorship care is being driven by a number of factors including:

- > The increasing number of cancer diagnoses in conjunction with the increase in survival rates
- > The limited capacity and resourcing of cancer specialists to meet the demand
- > A realisation that quality survivorship care requires a holistic, patient-centred approach within and beyond the cancer specialist setting
- > SA Health currently undergoing change to ensure patients receive the *best care, first time, every time*

South Australian Statewide Survivorship Framework

In response SA Cancer Service in collaboration with key stakeholders is leading the development of a Statewide Survivorship Framework. The Framework will outline the minimum agreed standard of care for all cancer patients irrespective of:

- > Tumour type
- > Age
- > Geographical location
- > Ethnicity
- > Socioeconomic background
- > Co-morbidities
- > Service or setting (eg. public or private; acute or primary health care)



Funding to develop the Framework has been received from the National Cancer Expert Reference Group (NCERG). The Project Team consists of:

- > Ms Tracey Doherty A/Director, SACS
- > Professor Bogda Koczwara Professor of Medical Oncology, Flinders University, Head of Department, Department of Medical Oncology, Flinders Medical Centre
- > Dr Kate Cameron A/Professional Nurse Lead, SACS
- > Ms Chantelle Hislop Senior Project Officer, SACS

The SACS Survivorship Framework Project is informed by a multi-disciplinary Survivorship Steering Group, reporting to the SACS Strategy Committee with Oliver Frank providing GP representation.

Currently three key components have been identified for inclusion within the Survivorship Framework including:

- > Cancer Treatment Summary
- > Needs Assessment (Distress Thermometer and Problem Checklist)
- > Care Plan

The purpose of these is to assist the survivors, their carer &/ family and other health care professionals involved understand the diagnosis, treatment and any follow-up support or care that is or may be required.

Opportunities to be involved with the project

1. Membership on the Survivorship Steering Group

The Survivorship Steering Group is currently seeking interest from Primary Health Care Providers have an interest in improving the quality of care for cancer survivors. Meetings are held on a monthly basis (last Friday of the month), alternating between face to face and teleconference meetings.

2. Request consultation and/or presentation from the Project Team

The Survivorship Project Team is continuing to seek opportunities to inform, discuss and consult with key stakeholders about the project, current progress and future directions. If you have any upcoming meetings or forums and would value an update and opportunity to provide input into the development and implementation of the Survivorship Framework, please contact the Project Team

3. Register details for updates and information

A Survivorship distribution list is continuing to be developed to provide updates and progress in relation to the project, advise of future forums and consultations as well as provide general information relating to survivorship (including new evidence, research and projects).

If you're interested in any of the above opportunities or would like further information relating to other projects and work SA Cancer Service is involved in, *please contact*.

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