



# CANCER AUSTRALIA

## Cancer in Australia

### Incidence

- In 2010, 113,700 Australians were estimated to be diagnosed with cancer.<sup>1</sup>
- By the age of 85 years, one in two men and one in three women will have been diagnosed with cancer at some stage in their life.<sup>1</sup>
- Cancer is more common in older Australians; 74% of all new cancer cases in men and 62% of new cancer cases in women occurred in those aged 60 years and over.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2007, the most commonly reported cancers were prostate cancer (19,403), bowel cancer (14,234), breast cancer (12,670), melanoma of the skin (10,342) and lung cancer (9,703).<sup>1</sup>
- In 2007, prostate cancer was the most commonly diagnosed cancer among men. The most commonly diagnosed cancer in women was breast cancer.<sup>1</sup>
- Between 1982 and 2008, the number of new cancer cases more than doubled (from 47,484 to 112,304 cases).<sup>2</sup>
- While cancer incidence rates have increased (from 383 to 490 cases per 100,000 between 1982 to 2008), cancer mortality rates have fallen (from 209 to 176 deaths per 100,000 between 1982 and 2007).<sup>2</sup>

### Mortality

- Cancer was the second most common cause of death in Australia in 2007.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2007 there were nearly 40,000 deaths due to cancer, accounting for three out of every 10 deaths registered in Australia.<sup>1</sup>
- Lung cancer was the leading cause of cancer death (7,626) in 2007, followed by bowel cancer (4,047), prostate cancer (2,938), breast cancer (2,706) and lymphoid cancers (2,552).<sup>1</sup>
- For all cancers combined, cancer mortality rates between 2003 and 2007 were higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples compared with non-Indigenous Australians, for those living in regional and remote areas compared with those in major cities, and for people in lower socioeconomic compared with higher socioeconomic groups.<sup>1</sup>

### Survival

- For those diagnosed with cancer in 1998-2004, the five year relative survival was 61% for all cancers combined, which has increased significantly from 47% in 1982-1986.<sup>1</sup>

## Prevalence

- At the end of 2004, there were 297,142 people alive who had been diagnosed with cancer at any time in the previous 5 years. This represented 1.5% of the Australian population.<sup>1</sup>

## Burden of disease

- Cancer was estimated to be the leading cause of the burden of disease in Australia in 2010, accounting for approximately 19% of the total burden.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2010, among men the highest burden was estimated to be due to lung cancer and among women was estimated to be due to breast cancer.<sup>1</sup>

## References

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare & Australasian Association of Cancer Registries 2010. Cancer in Australia: an overview, 2010. Cancer series no. 60. Cat. no. CAN 56. Canberra: AIHW.
2. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). ACIM (Australian Cancer Incidence and Mortality) Books. AIHW: Canberra. Accessed January 2012.

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