CanNET is a Cancer Australia initiative, funded by the Australian Government

Cancer Services Network National Demonstration Program
(CanNET) Evaluation Tool
Focus group protocol for CanNET project teams

Siggins Miller has been engaged by Cancer Australia as the CanNET National Support and Evaluation Service. As part the national evaluation of the CanNET program, we will be convening a focus group with each of the CanNET project teams. The details about the date, time and venue for the CanNET (insert) project team focus group can be found below (see Section1).

We would greatly appreciate it if you could come along and participate in these discussions. The questions that will be discussed in the focus group are also listed below so that you can prepare your thoughts and make some notes beforehand. We look forward to seeing you at the focus group.

Information about focus group:

Date:	
Time:	
Location:	
CanNET project team:	☐ QLD ☐ NSW ☐ VIC ☐ TAS ☐ SA ☐ WA ☐ NT
Focus group participants and their roles:	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)

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Instructions: Please read each question carefully and answer as openly and honestly as possible. There are no right and wrong answers.

Session 1: Project implementation (30 minutes)

During the focus group, a consultant from the CanNET National Support and Evaluation Service (NSES) will ask you to discuss your responses to the following questions about project implementation.

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1) Was the CanNET (insert) project implemented/carried out as agreed in your contract with Cancer Australia? If not, what have been the major changes to the project's design and/or plan?

2) What processes worked well and why?

3) What processes did not work well and why?

4) To what extent did the CanNET project team develop linkages and collaborate with other CanNETs and/or other related projects?

5) In your opinion, what factors existed in the broader environment prior to CanNET that influenced its direction or success in the local context?

Session 2: Project outputs (15 minutes)

The project outputs that were identified in your contract with Cancer Australia are listed below. Prior to the focus group, please review this list and place one of the following symbols in the boxes provided to the left of each output, to indicate whether or not the output was actually produced: ✓ (yes); ✗ (no); * (output was revised or redesigned; further discussion required during focus group)

	Tailored list of outputs to be inserted here for each CanNET

Session 3: Project outcomes (90 minutes)

During the focus group, a consultant from the CanNET NSES will also ask you to discuss your responses to the following questions about project outcomes.

1. In your experience, how has CanNET improved consumer involvement in both decisions about their own care, and service planning and delivery? Please make sure that you also consider and reflect on: a) the challenges you faced in relation to consumer involvement; and b) how sustainable you believe the project outcomes in this area are?	
2. In your experience, how has CanNET increased consumers awareness of, and access to, cancer care services - in particular for consumers in regional and rural areas? Please make sure that you also consider and reflect on: a) the challenges you faced in relation to awareness and accessibility; and b) how sustainable you believe the project outcomes in this area are?	
3. Please explain how CanNET has increased the availability, accessibility and involvement of cancer care providers in continuing professional development (CPD)? Please make sure that you also consider and reflect on: a) the range of CPD-related activities that were coordinated through the project, including target groups; b) challenges you faced in relation to CPD; and c) how sustainable you believe the project outcomes in this area are?	
4. Based on your experience as a project team member, how has CanNET influenced cancer care providers work experiences and attitudes? Please make sure that you also consider and reflect on: a) the challenges you faced in relation to the above; and b) how sustainable you believe the project outcomes in this area are?	

5. Please explain how CanNET has improved multidisciplinary care (MDC) processes? Please make sure that you also consider and reflect on: a) the challenges you faced in relation to MDC; and b) how sustainable you believe the project outcomes in this area are?	
6. Please explain how CanNET has promoted formalised linkages between cancer care services, and between cancer care providers (including primary care providers)? Please make sure that you also consider and reflect on: a) the challenges you faced in relation to promoting formalised linkages; and b) how sustainable you believe the project outcomes in this area are?	
7. Please explain how CanNET has tried to address workforce issues (eg by trialling new and/or innovative roles)? Please make sure that you also consider and reflect on: a) the challenges you faced in relation to addressing workforce issues; and b) how sustainable you believe the project outcomes in this area are?	
8. Please explain how CanNET has enhanced communication and data systems (ie to enable sharing of clinical information between services and service providers)? Please make sure that you also consider and reflect on: a) the challenges you faced in relation to communication and data systems; and b) how sustainable you believe the project outcomes in this area are?	

| 9. Please describe the quality improvement activities that have been conducted/established through CanNET (eg audits, credentialing cancer care providers)? Please make sure that you also consider and reflect on: a) the challenges you faced in relation to quality improvement activities; and b) how sustainable you believe the project outcomes in this area are? | |
| 10. Please describe any other project outcomes that do not directly relate to the questions above, if any? | |

Session 4: Reflections on program design (60 minutes)

During the focus group, a consultant from the CanNET National Support and Evaluation Service will ask you to reflect on how the program design, at the local and national level, affected the success of your local project. Please consider your responses to the following questions in preparation for this session.

1. Please describe any comments you have about the over all aims and objectives of the CanNET program?
Please consider the following:
  a) How well they were defined at the national level
  b) How realistic they were (within given timeframes)
  c) How aligned your local directions were with those at the national level	

2. Please describe any comments you have about the governance of the program at a national level (including the direction, support and contract management provided by Cancer Australia)? Please consider strengths and weaknesses of the current model, as well as suggested improvements.	
3. Please describe any comments you have about the role of the CanNET NS&ES? The objective of the CanNET NS&ES was to ensure consistency, reduce duplication and facilitate a national approach to network development and evaluation that builds the evidence for cancer service networks in Australia.	

4. Please describe any comments you have about the CanNET national collaboration strategy?
Please consider how effective/useful the following processes were:
  a) National workshops
  b) National teleconferences
  c) CanNET website
  d) CanNET information bulletins and communiqués
  e) Network visits	

5. Please describe any comments you have in relation to evaluation, at both the local and national level?
 	
Please consider the following:
  a) The over all evaluation framework and approach to evaluation
  b) The burden of data collection for the project team
  c) The extent of collaboration between local and national evaluators	

6. Given your experience, what type of local governance structure might be most effective for cancer service networks? Please consider strengths and weaknesses of the current model, as well as alternative models.	
7. Given your experience, what are your recommendations about the clinical leadership of this kind of change management initiative in the health sector?	
8. Given your experience, what would be the skill set in the ideal project team for this kind of change management initiative in the health sector? Please consider skills, qualifications, experience, influence and credibility.	
9. Please outline any other comments you have about program design?	