

# CanNET

## National Workshop Report

Adelaide, 23 February 2007



Australian Government

Cancer Australia

### **CanNET: The purpose**

The Cancer Service Networks National Demonstration Program (CanNET) aims to lessen disparate outcomes by improving equitable access to quality clinically effective cancer services throughout Australia. The eight CanNET demonstration sites have the potential to provide improved access to world best practice cancer care for up to half the people of Australia. They will achieve this by establishing managed cancer networks involving primary care clinicians, secondary and tertiary treatment centres and palliative care providers. The networks are intended to include both public and private services and acknowledge the interests of people affected by cancer, including care givers.

### **CanNET National Workshop**

The aim of the National Workshop (Appendix 1) held in Adelaide on 23 February 2007 was to:

1. Provide an overview of the CanNET Program (Appendix 2)
2. Clarify a timeline for the CanNET application process and expectations (Appendix 3)
3. Seek consensus on the CanNET evaluation criteria

This workshop was attended by 33 people and facilitated by Bob Wells of the Australian National University. It was attended by representatives from state and territory Health Departments; consumers; guest speakers and Cancer Australia staff (Appendix 4).

This report details the key outcomes from the CanNET National Workshop.

### **Key features of the managed cancer networks**

It was recognised that there will be a range of clinical network models to suit different population, geographical and health system resource arrangements (Appendix 5). However, the following features will be common to all models:

- All network nodes will be equal partners in their network both contributing to and sharing in the benefits of the network
- Networks will incorporate primary care, secondary and tertiary treatment and palliative care
- Networks will include both private and public services
- Networks will seek the active engagement of consumers
- Appropriate governance structures that will help ensure sustainability of the initiative
- Networks will not feature a central hub with a series of dependent spokes

Common goals of networks will include:

- A focus on improved patient care, ensuring access to the best care across the network
- Ensuring that networks take account of the needs of health professionals to develop and maintain appropriate knowledge and skills, and to work in a professionally enriching environment
- Information about services accessible to consumers of cancer services and their primary carers including general practitioners

### Performance Outcome Measures

It was agreed that national measures of performance for CanNET would be needed. These will be a range of measures under three principal domains:

- Impact on and outcomes for consumers (patients, families, care givers, friends, communities)
- Impact on and outcomes for providers (professionals, volunteers, organisations)
- Impact on and outcomes for the system (structures and processes, networks, relationships)

Table 1 outlines the key areas identified by participants for assessing performance under each domain.

**Table 1: CanNET evaluation domains**

<b>CONSUMERS</b>	<b>PROVIDERS</b>	<b>SYSTEM</b>
Choice	Accredited	Governance structure
Journey: perspective	Multidisciplinary teams	Benchmarking
Culturally and linguistically diverse	Credentialling	Quality assurance and service improvement
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples	Continuing Professional Development	Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What works</li> <li>• What does not work</li> <li>• Performance audits</li> <li>• Referral patterns</li> <li>• Public/private</li> <li>• Primary care</li> <li>• Cost-effectiveness</li> </ul>
Quality/Safety	Protocols/evidence-based medicine – adherence to guidelines	
Consistency/equality	Satisfaction	
Satisfaction	Peer review and support	
Timeliness of information and advice	Workload pressures	

### Evaluation

It was agreed that each proposal will incorporate from the outset an evaluation strategy, including data collection. The principles for effective evaluation set out in Professor Kathy Eagar's presentation were agreed to (Appendix 6).

## Next Steps

Based on the outcomes of the workshop, the States and the Northern Territory will now develop full funding proposals for consideration by Cancer Australia by 18 May, 2007.

Key elements of the proposals will include:

- Clarifying the purpose and goals of the network
- Identifying gaps in current service provision
- Ensuring that consumers, primary care, palliative care and private services are included within networks
- Identifying clinical and community 'champions' to help develop and operationalise the new arrangements
- Establishing governance arrangements and operating principles
- Identifying links between the networks and other parts of the health system, including relevant funding and service arrangements
- Planning the evaluation strategy, including measurable improvements in timely best practice access and outcomes
- Developing a workforce strategy including appropriate skills development and maintenance
- Supporting appropriate research and quality improvement across the network
- Linking with other networks to share experiences
- Establishing appropriate data collection systems and information sharing arrangements

## Moving forward

It was agreed that:

- A list and contact details of participants would be circulated to all workshop participants.
- Cancer Australia will:
  - Proceed with the procurement of the National Support/Evaluation Service. This service will provide support, facilitate a CanNET communications strategy and undertake CanNET evaluation.
  - Jane Phillips will be the coordinating person for support from Cancer Australia. Other members of the Cancer Australia team will be available on a needs basis to provide expertise to assist the demonstration sites to develop their communications, data and consumer engagement strategies and network service design. Please contact Jane Phillips on 02 6655 8679 or [jane.phillips@health.gov.au](mailto:jane.phillips@health.gov.au) if you require additional support.