

MEDIA RELEASE



Australian Government
Cancer Australia

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AUSTRALIAN CANCER TRIALS ONLINE ***Cancer clinical trial information at your fingertips***

For the first time, Australians will be able to access reliable and current information about cancer clinical trials currently available in Australia from one, easy-to-use website.

Australian Cancer Trials Online, www.australiancancertrials.gov.au, is a national site hosted by Cancer Australia using plain English to help patients search for cancer clinical trials available in Australia.

The new website, launched today by the Hon Mark Butler, Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, features cancer clinical trials across all cancer types, for different disease stages, and for cancer patients of all ages from children through to adults.

Dr Helen Zorbas, Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Australia, said the new website provides an important resource to cancer patients and the health professionals who care for them.

“Australian Cancer Trials contains information on over 1000 cancer clinical trials currently recruiting cancer patients in Australia, including international trials for which Australian patients may be eligible to participate in,” said Dr Zorbas.

“The available trials are for all types of cancer, and across the spectrum of cancer care including prevention, diagnosis, treatment and supportive care.”

Clinical trials are fundamental to the development of new and improved cancer treatments, diagnostic tests and preventive interventions for best-practice cancer care.

“Currently, less than six per cent of cancer patients participate in clinical trials. By providing information about clinical trials in a user-friendly online source, we hope to increase participation in Australia by making information about clinical trials more accessible to all cancer patients and their healthcare team,” said Dr Zorbas.

“Important advances in cancer care are made through clinical trials and people diagnosed with cancer will benefit through improved therapies and care in the future. Ultimately this will reduce mortality from cancer and improve quality of life for cancer patients.”

The Australian Cancer Trials website is designed for patients to access with their doctor, who can help to answer any questions, clarify the information provided and assist with decisions about participating in a clinical trial.

The site is easy to use, with definitions and explanations about types of trial and answers to common questions that patients may have about participating in a cancer clinical trial.

Australian Cancer Trials Online has been developed through a collaboration between Cancer Australia, the University of Sydney, the Australian and New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry and Cancer Voices, and evaluated through a grant provided by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

The Australian Government through Cancer Australia is committed to supporting cancer clinical trials and has provided \$20 million funding over four years to 2013.

Cancer Australia is a national government agency, working to reduce the impact of cancer on all Australians.

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