

Research on cancer survivorship in Australia

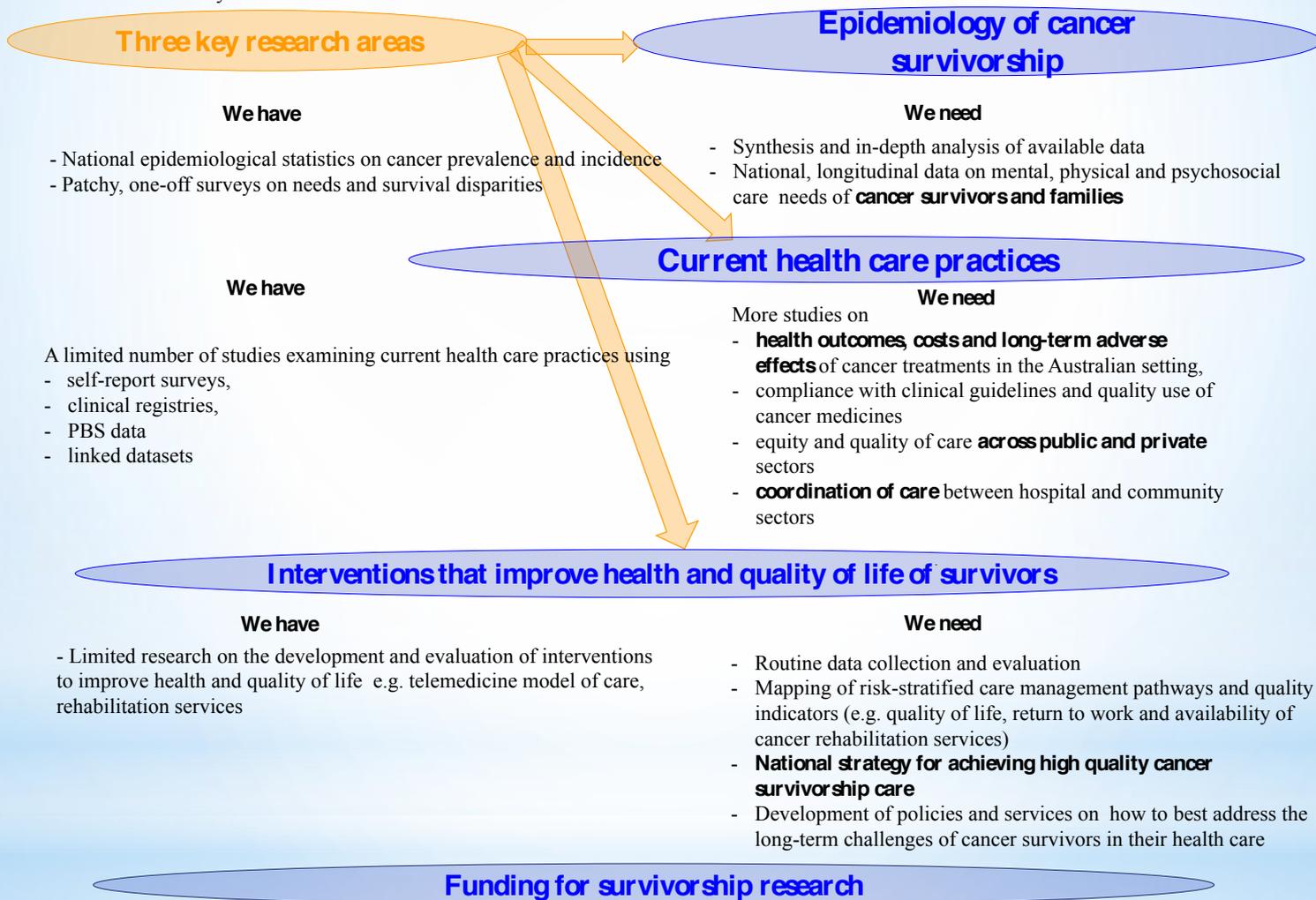
Current status, gaps and needs

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Cancer survivorship research is important for understanding and interpreting the heterogeneity of cancer survivors and their survivorship care needs:

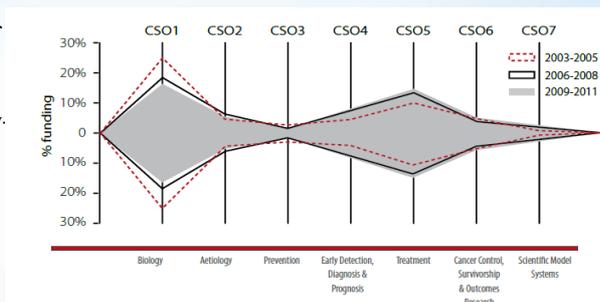
- cancer is a **heterogeneous set of diseases** with varied treatments and toxicities;
- cancer treatments themselves are evolving rapidly, and hence the chronic and late consequences constantly need identification and monitoring
- during **different phases of care**: active curative treatment, disease-free, chronic treatment, end-of-life care
- at **various ages and stages of life**: children, adolescents and young adults, middle-age and older adults, parents with young children

This overview of recent cancer survivorship research literature highlights the current status, gaps and needs around objectives, data collection and analysis.



Funding is a major challenge, limiting the quality and quantity of survivorship research. Outcomes may need monitoring for long durations, with lifestyle and chronic disease comorbidity interactions accounted for. We need also Better access to publicly-funded data for health research.

In 2009-2011, **only 9% of funded research in Australia focused on cancer control, survivorship and outcomes research.**



Ref: Cancer Australia 2014 Cancer research in Australia. An overview of funding to cancer research projects and research programs in Australia 2006 to 2011.