The growing burden of **lung cancer in Australia**

5TH most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia

13,810 Australians were diagnosed in 2021 – that's **37 people a day**

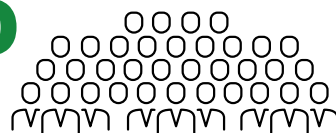**22,800** Australian men and women currently have lung cancer

Almost **168,000** people will be diagnosed with lung cancer over the **next 10 years**

Lung cancer is Australia's leading cause of cancer death

8,693 Australians lost **their lives to lung cancer in 2021** –

that's almost one person every hour

149,000 **years of life** lost due to premature mortality

Anyone can get lung cancer

Risk factors include:

- Exposure to asbestos, radon and occupation materials
- Air pollution
- Family history
- Personal history of lung disease
- Genetics
- Smoking

1 in 5 people living with lung cancer have no smoking history

Lung cancer is costly

By 2031 it's predicted that the economic burden of lung cancer will increase to **$8.5 billion**

Lung cancer is the **third most expensive** cancer

Mental health impacts

50% of Australians living with lung cancer experience **distress, anxiety** and/or **depression,** which worsens quality of life

An unfair fight

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are **twice as likely** to be diagnosed with and to die from lung cancer than non-Indigenous Australians

Compared to major cities, Australians living in regional, rural and remote areas experience

12% lower survival rate

31% more cases

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Disjointed care delays diagnosis & impacts outcomes & costs

In the first 10 years, a targeted screening program would:
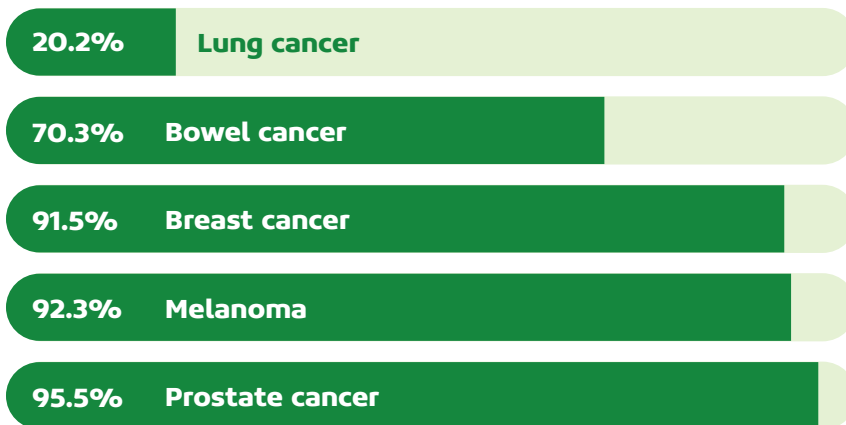
Save over 12,000 lives

Be cost-effective

Improve quality of life

Lung cancer's **5-year survival rate** is the lowest of the 5 most common cancers

20.2%	**Lung cancer**
70.3%	**Bowel cancer**
91.5%	**Breast cancer**
92.3%	**Melanoma**
95.5%	**Prostate cancer**

There is only 1 lung cancer nurse for every 616 patients compared to breast cancer with 1 nurse for every 168 patients

Major inequity in Commonwealth funding for lung cancer nurses since 2019

$0.9 million lung

$30 million breast

$23 million prostate

When a Specialist Lung Cancer Nurse is involved:

44% are more likely to have access to treatment

75% fewer presentations to emergency department

Key recommendations

Lung Cancer Prevention and Risk Reduction
Invest in lung cancer prevention policy and programs including smoking cessation and tobacco control, healthy and safe workplaces, and clean air.

Lung Cancer Screening
Implement a targeted national lung cancer screening program to diagnose Australians with lung cancer at an earlier stage of disease and save lives.

Specialist Lung Cancer Nurses
Invest in 100 government-funded Specialist Lung Cancer Nurses by 2025.

Comprehensive Genomic Profiling
Implement government-funded Comprehensive Genomic Profiling as standard of care for Australians with lung cancer.

Lung Cancer Survivorship
Greater research investment and focus on lung cancer survivorship through practical resources.

Clinical Quality Registry
Develop a world-leading national clinical quality registry for lung cancer to improve the quality and value of lung cancer care.

Scan the QR code to access *The Next Breath: Accelerating Lung Cancer Reform in Australia 2022-2025* Blueprint report and to watch the 'Turn the tide on lung cancer' video, featuring our lung cancer patient advocates.

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