

What is the Australian Blood Cancer Registry?

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Thursday, 23 November 2006
Last Updated Wednesday, 08 July 2009

The Australian Blood Cancer Registry (ABCR) is a coalition of stakeholders including consumers, clinicians and researchers which is supported by pharmaceutical and healthcare organisations. The ABCR has as its aim to provide sufficient and appropriate information to achieve best practice in clinical care and policy development for blood cancers and associated conditions. This collection of detailed and accurate information on blood cancers will form a central database or disease registry. This information will be used to improve the capacity of clinicians, patients, their families, carers and the government to make informed and timely decisions on the management of blood cancers. Blood cancers are cancers that arise in cells formed in the bone marrow including leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

Why is a Registry being developed for blood cancers?

Blood cancers are a significant public health issue because they constitute a major proportion of the years of premature life lost from cancer, and many of these diseases are potentially curable. Blood cancers constitute approximately 10% of all cancers diagnosed each year in Australia. In particular the world-wide incidence of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma is rising by three per cent each year in developed countries. This includes Australia, which has a high incidence rate relative to many other countries.

While the basic details on who gets blood cancers are collected already, we do not have the more detailed information that is needed to improve treatment outcomes and management. Survival depends on delivery of prompt and customised treatment depending on the stage of disease and prognostic factors. An Australian Blood Cancer Registry will help provide this essential information for research and improved treatment outcomes.