



## Equity research studies and tools referenced at the VCCC Alliance “Advancing Equity in Cancer Outcomes Symposium” - 11 March 2026

Please also refer to the [VCCC Alliance Health Equity Programs](https://vccc Alliance Health Equity Programs)  
<https://vccc Alliance Health Equity Programs>

And the [Health Equity Hub](https://vccc Alliance Health Equity Programs) on the CCE (Centre for Cancer Education)  
<https://vccc Alliance Health Equity Programs>

Please note that the majority of the initiatives listed in this document included consumer advisory groups. In the interest of saving space, we did not include each individual who contributed, but would like to acknowledge their contributions to these important projects and programs.

### Focus: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

#### Scope and impact of a First Nations cancer coordinator role: perspectives of multidisciplinary cancer staff

URL - <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41577846/>

Purpose: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (hereafter respectfully referred to as First Nations) experience poorer cancer outcomes and higher mortality rates compared to non-Indigenous Australians. Barriers in accessing and engaging with cancer care services contribute significantly to these disparities. The First Nations Cancer Coordinator (FNCC) role offers a model that combines cultural and coordination support to improve the navigation of cancer services for First Nations people. This project sought to understand perceptions and impact of a [pilot FNCC intervention](#) on the care of First Nations patients, from the perspective of cancer care teams.

#### Research partners:

University of Melbourne  
St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne  
The Royal Melbourne Hospital  
The University of Queensland

Funded by Victorian Integrated Cancer Services.



### **CREATE Quality Appraisal Tool**

URL - <https://sahmri.org.au/research/themes/aboriginal-health/programs/health-systems-research/projects/the-create-project>

The Centre of Research Excellence in Aboriginal Chronic Disease Knowledge Translation and Exchange (CREATE) was established to assist the Aboriginal health sector to collate and use existing knowledge on best practice chronic disease prevention and treatment as well as sustainable primary health care funding and service delivery models to improve the coverage and appropriateness of their services and care.

Research Partners:

Centre of Research Excellence in Aboriginal Chronic Disease Knowledge Translation and Exchange (CREATE), a collaborative enterprise between:

- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation ([NACCHO](#))
- Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute ([SAHMRI](#))
- University of Adelaide – School of Public Health and Joanna Briggs Institute ([University of Adelaide](#))

Funded by the NHMRC.

### **Implementing VACCHO 's Victorian Aboriginal Cancer Journey Strategy**

URL - [https://www.vaccho.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/VACCHO\\_Victorian-Aboriginal-Cancer-Journey-Strategy-2023-2028\\_Web.pdf](https://www.vaccho.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/VACCHO_Victorian-Aboriginal-Cancer-Journey-Strategy-2023-2028_Web.pdf)

### **Lung Cancer Screening Research Program**

URL - <https://www.vaccho.org.au/2025/07/31/accos-lead-the-way-in-the-new-lung-cancer-screening-program/>

The project focuses on ensuring lung cancer screening is culturally safe, respectful and accessible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. This includes identifying barriers, listening to Community voices, and working with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to ensure the screening experience meets the needs of their Community.

Partners:

VCCC Alliance

VACCHO

Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)

Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-Operative (GEGAC)

Funded by the Victorian Government.



### **Vaping in Mob Youth campaign**

URL - <https://ftv.thekooriway.com.au/>

The **Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)** has launched a significant research and community health initiative called "[Flip the Vape](#)" to tackle the rising rates of vaping among Indigenous youth. This program is part of the broader **Koori Way** initiative, which is focused on reducing tobacco and vaping use within First Nations communities.

### **Focus: CALD/Multicultural/Palliative Care**

#### **Australian Multicultural Health Collaborative**

URL - <https://multiculturalhealth.org.au/>

The Collaborative is an initiative of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) that aims to bring a national voice to the broad health and wellbeing needs, of Australia's culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse communities.

#### **The ACCESS Program**

This program sits under the [VCCC Alliance Health Equity Program](#)  
<https://vccc Alliance.org.au/health-equity/programs/health-equity-2>

Improving access to symptom support for cancer patients from a CALD background using experience-based co-design methodology in partnership with patients, carers, healthcare professionals and community representatives, the new study aims to design, implement, and evaluate interventions that are equitable and culturally safe.

The Program incorporates:

CLEAR-ACCESS  
ADVANCE-ACCESS  
DELIVER-ACCESS

Partners:

VCCC Alliance  
Austin Health  
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre  
Western Health  
Northern Health Palliative Care  
Funded by the Victorian Government



### **Co-designing a Lung Cancer Screening Navigator with CALD patients**

URL - <https://vcccallyance.org.au/health-equity/programs/health-equity-2>

This program sits within the [VCCC Alliance Health Equity Program](#). The project aims to develop a navigator model of care for lung cancer screening specific to culturally and linguistically diverse communities that is tested under real-world conditions and adaptable for other priority populations. Led by the University of Melbourne. Funded by the Victorian Government.

### **Adapting a primary cancer care clinical trial for the Chinese community**

URL - <https://vcccallyance.org.au/health-equity/programs/health-equity-2>

This program sits within the [VCCC Alliance Health Equity Program](#). The primary objective of the Cassowary-CALD project is to understand how to successfully adapt general practice-based cancer trials to enable and increase participation by CALD populations. This project will be working in conjunction with the multi-cancer risk assessment Cassowary trial to provide evidence-based strategies to reduce barriers to CALD participation.

Research partners:

VCCC Alliance

University of Melbourne

Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group

### **Nursing Equity Assessment Tool – NEAT**

URL - <https://vcccallyancelearn.org.au/the-neat>

This program sits within the [VCCC Alliance Health Equity Program](#). A nursing complexity checklist - the Nursing Equity Assessment Tool (NEAT) - has been developed to support rapid identification of people at risk of poorer cancer outcomes, enabling timely support and intervention. Access the NEAT tool here: <https://vcccallyancelearn.org.au/the-neat>

A new study, led by Prof Mei Krishnasamy, University of Melbourne, sets out to test clinical utility of the NEAT tool across a range of healthcare settings. A study is also underway to assess NEAT with people from CALD backgrounds. Over time, data could contribute to a comprehensive standardised data set, allowing the consideration of cancer outcomes by the presence or absence of social determinants of health.

Research partners:

VCCC Alliance

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Funded by the Victorian Government



## **iCanCare Advance Care Plan (ACP) project**

URL - <https://www.mq.edu.au/faculty-of-medicine-health-and-human-sciences/departments-and-schools/australian-institute-of-health-innovation/our-research-centres/centre-for-health-systems-and-safety-research/our-research/icancareplan>

Advance care planning or ACP in simple terms is planning for future health care. ACP ensures that the person receives care that is aligned with their preferences and wishes for when they are unable to make those decisions themselves. ACP is linked to delivery of care that is person-centred and of high quality. It improves satisfaction of the staff and consumers and reduces unwanted aggressive treatment.

### *Advance Care Planning Australia*

Advance care planning brochures and information in other languages.

<https://www.advancecareplanning.org.au/understand-advance-care-planning/advance-care-planning-in-your-language>

The iCanCarePlan Project was a three-year project, funded by Cancer Institute NSW, that aimed to enhance engagement in ACP for multicultural communities affected by cancer. It consisted of a series of studies that first explored the issue and then use this knowledge to co-design a solution to improve engagement in ACP. A series of studies were conducted as part of this program.

Led by: MacQuarie University, Australian Institute of Health Innovation  
Funded by the Cancer Institute NSW.

The iCanPlan Education in ACP recorded webinar is available through:  
YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tvPVqzN75M>

NSW Health Care Interpreter Services Professional Development Share Point

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/multicultural/Pages/health-care-interpreting-and-translating-services.aspx>

CareSearch Resources

<https://www.caresearch.com.au/About-Us/Newsroom/CareSearch-Print-Resources/Health-Professional-Resources>

Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Inc

<https://ausit.org/>



### Care Plus and Care Plus Extend

These programs fall under the VCCC Alliance's Equity Program. Read more about them here: <https://vccc Alliance.org.au/health-equity/programs/palliative-care>

More patients across Victoria with sarcoma, lung and colon cancer, including in regional areas, will have the opportunity to access high quality palliative care at an earlier stage under the VCCC Alliance's Victorian government-funded Care Plus Extend program.

The program will introduce a telehealth component as part of a study to examine the clinical and cost benefits of the Care Plus model of care. The Care Plus model involves practice change whereby palliative care is introduced at agreed times – trigger points – that are standardised for the different disease groups, and which prompt a referral.

Care Plus Extend aims to increase the number of these cancer patients receiving timely palliative care by 25 per cent, which aligns with the new Victorian Cancer Plan goals.

Research partners:

VCCC Alliance

The Royal Women's Hospital

The Royal Melbourne Hospital

The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Funded by the Victorian Government

### Focus: Improving inclusivity in research

#### Health Research for All

URL - <https://vccc Alliance.org.au/health-equity/programs/health-equity-2>

This program sits within the [VCCC Alliance Health Equity Program](#). The "VeHRIF" Framework (Vetting in Health Research – Inclusion Framework) is an online hub that aims to empower researchers to plan, design and conduct inclusive research. Sector collaborators and the broader research community are invited to explore, use, and share VeHRIF and help build a more inclusive future for health research. Access the framework here:

[https://mcri.figshare.com/articles/report/Vetting\\_in\\_Health\\_Research\\_Inclusion\\_Framework\\_VeHRIF\\_A\\_new\\_tool\\_to\\_assess\\_inclusivity\\_of\\_capacity\\_building\\_resources\\_for\\_health\\_researchers/30177775?file=58447297](https://mcri.figshare.com/articles/report/Vetting_in_Health_Research_Inclusion_Framework_VeHRIF_A_new_tool_to_assess_inclusivity_of_capacity_building_resources_for_health_researchers/30177775?file=58447297)

Project led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in close partnership with the VCCC Alliance. Collaborators: the Digital Health CRC and UTS, which enabled the website development work with UTS Rapido. Funded by the Victorian Government.



## Focus: Gender equity

### Gender equity in cancer care

Women's Health Victoria is undertaking research into the impact of gender on experiences of cancer care for women and trans and gender diverse people in Victoria, and how these experiences are further shaped by living in a rural or regional area.

The research brings together a desktop literature review with quantitative and qualitative lived and living experience research, and surveys with healthcare professionals.

Research findings will be used to develop trainings, and knowledge-building materials for health professionals to support the delivery of and increase access to intersectional gender-responsive cancer care in Victoria.

Research partners:

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

The Royal Women's Hospital

VICS Barwon South Western Regional Integrated Cancer Service

VICS Gippsland Regional Integrated Cancer Service

Transgender Victoria

Funded by the Victorian Government

## Focus: General

### Cancer support

WeCan

URL - <https://wecan.org.au/>

An Australian supportive care website which helps people affected by cancer find the information, resources and support services they may need following a diagnosis of cancer.

The site provides easy access to the many excellent resources, services and information developed by other organisations who specialise in cancer and community support.