

Media resources

About Cure Brain Cancer Foundation

Cure Brain Cancer Foundation is the largest dedicated funder of brain cancer research in Australia. Our mission is bold: **to increase five-year survival to 50% by 2023.**

We intend to do this by

1. Funding research and clinical trials to provide people living with brain cancer in Australia with access to new treatments at the same time as they are available globally.
2. Raising awareness of brain cancer.
3. Supporting the development of a collaborative, international and multi-discipline brain cancer research community with a globally-prioritised research agenda.

How we will succeed

International collaboration across disciplines & teams

We are leveraging discoveries made in areas that share common problems: other cancers, neuroscience, genomics, bioinformatics, epidemiology, immunology and nanotechnology. This includes identifying existing treatments for other diseases that are based on biomarkers common to brain cancer, and fast-tracking research into their potential to treat brain cancer; thus 'leapfrogging' the traditional research pathway.

We help fund the **Brain Cancer Discovery Collaborative** across Australia and were responsible for co-establishing the **Global Brain Exchange** (now Defeat Glioma Global) internationally, with partners from the US, Europe and China.

Funding innovative research to get new treatments to patients faster

Our vision is to ensure that every person diagnosed with brain cancer in Australia has access to new treatments through **world-class clinical trials**, at the same time as they are available globally. We are working with our international partners to bring these trials to Australia.

We are following a proactive strategy guided by our internationally-renowned **Scientific Advisory Committee**. As well as funding research through competitive grants, we go further, proactively identifying promising research projects and clinical trials to be conducted in Australia.

Cure Brain Cancer is unique because we consider the entire research pathway. We have identified **four key areas of research** which we believe will have the greatest impact on accelerating new treatments:

1. Collaborative translational research
2. Clinical research
3. Immunotherapy
4. Precision medicine

Empowering patients and the community

people living with brain cancer are at the centre of what we do and we recognise their critical contribution to research. We will **advocate** on their behalf to improve outcomes.

Find out more in the **About Us** and **Research** sections of our website.





Brain cancer facts

Tumour explanations

- ▲ **Benign tumours** are slow growing, have distinct borders and rarely spread.
- ▲ **Malignant tumours** usually grow rapidly and are invasive and life threatening.
- ▲ **Primary brain tumours** start in the brain.
- ▲ **Metastatic brain tumours** start somewhere else and spread to the brain.

Tumour grading

Tumours are graded according to how serious and advanced they are. Most doctors now use the World Health Organization (WHO) classification system to grade brain tumours:

- ▲ **Grade I Tumours** are the least malignant, have slow-growing cells, look almost normal under a microscope and are usually associated with long-term survival.
- ▲ **Grade II Tumours** have relatively slow-growing cells, look slightly abnormal under a microscope, can invade adjacent normal tissue and can recur as a higher grade tumour.
- ▲ **Grade III Tumours** actively reproduce abnormal cells. They look abnormal under a microscope, infiltrate adjacent normal tissue and tend to recur, often as a higher grade tumour.
- ▲ **Grade IV Tumours** have abnormal cells which reproduce rapidly. They have a very abnormal appearance under a microscope, form new blood vessels to maintain rapid growth and have areas of dead cells (necrosis) in the centre.

Paediatric brain tumours

Children are different to adults as their bodies and brains are still developing. Their tumours are different, too. The most common childhood brain tumours are not the same as the most common adult brain tumours. However, adult tumours can occur in children too, although they may behave differently in children.

Types of brain cancer

- ▲ Astrocytoma
- ▲ CNS Lymphoma
- ▲ Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG)
- ▲ Ependymoma
- ▲ Glioblastoma Multiforme (also called “astrocytoma, grade IV” and “glioblastoma” or “GBM”)
- ▲ Glioma (The group of brain tumours that includes astrocytomas and oligodendrogliomas)
- ▲ Medulloblastoma
- ▲ Meningioma
- ▲ Oligoastrocytoma
- ▲ Oligodendroglioma

To find out more about the different types of brain cancer visit our [website](#)



Statistics

Things of note

- ▲ Around **1600 people are diagnosed** with brain cancer in Australia every year; that is roughly one every five hours.*
- ▲ Around **1200 people die** from brain cancer each year, * which is approximately one person every seven hours.
- ▲ Brain cancer **kills more children in Australia** than any other disease ^
- ▲ On average, 30 children die from brain cancer each year. That's a classroom full of children.^
- ▲ It also **kills more people under 40** than any other cancer *
- ▲ Only **2 in 10 people** diagnosed with brain cancer will survive for 5 years.#
- ▲ Survival rates have **hardly changed for 30 years**#
- ▲ Brain cancer **costs more per patient** than any other cancer, because it is highly debilitating, affects people in their prime and often means family members cannot work if they become carers.†
- ▲ Brain cancer receives less than **5%** of federal government cancer research funding.‡

Sources

* *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2015. ACIM (Australian Cancer Incidence and Mortality) Books.* AIHW: Canberra.
www.aihw.gov.au/acim-books/

^ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2010 – 2014), 3303.0 Causes of Death, Australia (2009 – 2013), 'Table 1.3: Underlying cause of death, Selected causes by age at death, numbers and rates, Australia (2008 – 2012) www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3303.0/

Cancer Survival and Prevalence in Australia 1982 to 2010, AIHW 2012.
www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737422720

† *The Cost of Cancer NSW – report by Access Economics*, Australia wide, April 2007.

‡ NHMRC funded research into cancer and other malignant neoplasms
www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/research-funding-statistics-and-data/national-health-priority-areas-nhpas-datasets/cancer-nhp

Find out more by visiting the
Facts and Stats page of our website

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