

# Optimal Care Pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer learning program

## Pilot

On Thursday 9 June 2022 SMICS and GRICS hosted the pilot Optimal Care Pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer learning program. The learning program was developed in partnership with the Aboriginal health services and cancer services of Monash Health, Peninsula Health, Bairnsdale Regional Health service and Latrobe Regional Hospital. The program aimed to bring together Aboriginal health workers and cancer care professionals to:

- explore individual beliefs and knowledge of the optimal care pathway in a safe and non-judgemental environment;
- facilitate networking;
- explore available resources;
- discuss gaps, barriers and enablers.



The pilot learning program was held in Traralgon. A total of fourteen staff from both metropolitan and regional health services enrolled in the one day course. Four facilitators, two Aboriginal Health Liaison Officers and two cancer care nurse educators ran the day. Participants contributed a range of experience and strategies to the delivery of care for Aboriginal patients with cancer. A wide range of different services and disciplines participated in the program, including Aboriginal Health Workers, a palliative care physician, McGrath breast care nurses, cancer care coordinators, survivorship nurse and a nurse practitioner.

## Train the Trainer

A facilitator's train the trainer course was developed and conducted at Traralgon on Tuesday, 24 May 2022. Four Aboriginal Health workers and four Cancer Care workers from the health services spent a day learning about facilitating and conducting the course. Cancer Council Victoria provided the facilitator training and assisted with the day's activities.



## Next steps

The course has been developed using the Optimal Care pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cancer framework.

Self evaluation tools have been developed to align with the NSQHS Standards.

The learning package is currently being evaluated by Monash University.

Feedback will be used to guide the future planning and roll out of the course to other health services.

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