



About us

The Leukaemia Foundation is the only national not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the care and cure of patients and families living with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and related blood disorders.

We invest millions of dollars in the work of Australia's leading researchers to develop better treatments and cures and provide free services to support patients and their families.

We receive no ongoing government funding. We rely on the generosity of the community and corporate sector to further our Vision to Cure and Mission to Care.

We can help you

Our range of free services supports thousands of Australians, from diagnosis, through treatment and beyond. To learn more, please call 1800 620 420 to speak with one of our Support Services team.

You can help us

There are many ways that you can help us to improve the quality of life for people with blood cancer. From making a donation, to signing up for an event; from volunteering, or joining us as a corporate sponsor please call 1800 500 088 or go to www.leukaemia.org.au to learn more.

Last updated: Feb 2011

On average, an Australian child under the age of 14 is diagnosed with blood cancer every 36 hours*.

Leukaemias are the most common cancers in children, while lymphoma is the third most common childhood cancer. The causes of childhood blood cancers are unknown, but extensive research is being conducted in this field to learn more.

Leukaemia in children is a cancer of the bone marrow and is characterised by the overproduction of faulty white blood cells which prevent the bone marrow from making normal, healthy blood cells. As the blood cells are faulty, they cannot fight viruses and bacteria so children may experience infections, bleeding, anaemia and bruising.

Lymphomas are cancers of white blood cells that are produced by the bone marrow and reside in the lymphatic system. These cancers originate in the lymph glands or organs such as the liver, spleen or bone marrow.

Treatment options and expectations

Whilst the diagnosis of blood cancer can be devastating, the good news is that childhood leukaemia usually responds very well to treatment.

Treatment for childhood leukaemia takes around two years for girls, and three years for boys, involving chemotherapy sessions, lumbar punctures and sometimes a stem cell transplant. Treatment for lymphoma in children can involve chemotherapy and radiotherapy. In some cases, a stem cell transplant is required. On average, the treatment of lymphoma lasts at least six months, but can extend to years.

Research is making a difference

Since the 1980s, survival rates for children with blood cancers have increased significantly. Whereas from 1982—1986 survival rates were only 59%, today more than 85% of children with blood cancer will survive beyond 10 years.

The Leukaemia Foundation funds vital research programs into better treatments and cures including for children, committing over \$20 million since 2005.

How the Leukaemia Foundation can help

Our free support services - including education and support programs, emotional support, transportation to and from hospital and 'home away from home' accommodation - are available to help and support families from a child's diagnosis, and throughout their individual blood cancer experience.

For more information please refer to the guide "Understanding Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) in Children", available from the Leukaemia Foundation, or go to www.leukaemia.org.au. Other in-depth and disease specific guides are also available.

**Based on projections sourced from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). Estimates are calculated using actual diagnoses data collected from 2007 and annually prior to this year.*

For more information, freecall 1800 620 420
email info@leukaemia.org.au or visit www.leukaemia.org.au