



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.

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Leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and related blood disorders can develop in anyone, of any age, at any time. Around 11,500* Australians are expected to be newly diagnosed this year — equivalent to 31 people each day.

Blood cancers and related blood disorders change lives forever. The impact is felt by the person as well as family, friends and communities.

- With few clearly identified risk factors and sometimes no real warning, the impact is immense for the person and their loved ones.
- In acute or aggressive cases, the person can require immediate and intensive treatment, often within 24 hours of diagnosis. For those living in regional areas, it means leaving work, school and family and relocating to the city, adding to the shock and emotional turmoil.
- Treatment for blood cancer can range from months, to several years and generally lasts longer than treatment for other cancers. This can have a greater impact on relationships with others, education, career, and financial security. Families can suddenly find themselves in crippling financial circumstances if the person or their carer is also the major breadwinner.
- Treatment can be life-threatening and life-changing. Chemotherapy can weaken the body's defences to viruses and bacteria that can complicate the treatment plan. Temporary side-effects like hair loss are common, but permanent effects can also occur, such as fertility issues, and ongoing immune system challenges for those who have received a donor stem cell transplant. Those who do recover often find the experience has permanently shifted their perspective on life. Some are left feeling disconnected from their former life, and their relationships with others are also affected.
- Living a good quality of life with an incurable blood cancer can be difficult for many people. Some people who have chronic forms may be told to 'watch and wait' rather than being treated straight away which can be emotionally challenging. Others have a type that will come back, and it can be difficult to accept that treatment can only hold the disease at bay for a time.
- Decades of research have improved survival, but sadly, not everyone survives. Blood cancer is the second biggest cause of cancer death in Australia, claiming more lives each year than more well-known cancers, like breast cancer and melanoma. Coming to terms with the future is something that many families will need to face.

That's why the Leukaemia Foundation's work is so important. We help to lessen the impact of blood cancer by funding research to find tomorrow's cures and providing free services to support thousands of patients and their families each year throughout their individual journey.

*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