

# Victorian Quality Cancer Survivorship Care Framework



Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre

## Background and purpose

There is a growing focus on improved models of care for cancer survivors, and recognition that, to improve care, it is important to understand what constitutes optimal survivorship care and how to measure it. These criteria are currently lacking.

The US Institute of Medicine (IOM, now the National Academy of Medicine) 2001 publication 'Crossing the Quality Chasm' proposed that quality healthcare should be safe, effective, patient-centred, timely, efficient and equitable.<sup>1</sup> Further, the landmark 2006 IOM report 'From Cancer Patient to Cancer Survivor: Lost in Transition' report suggested a shift in the focus of existing survivorship care models from a dominant focus on surveillance for disease recurrence to a broader emphasis, adding prevention of recurrent and new cancers, and late effects; interventions to deal with the consequences of cancer and its treatment, and effective coordination between specialists and primary care providers<sup>2</sup>. Both the IOM report and the American Society of Clinical Oncology recommend that health services develop quality criteria and monitor and improve the care that all survivors receive.<sup>2,3</sup>

Nekhlyudov et al (2019) developed a quality survivorship framework aligning with the IOM components, more explicitly calling out a focus on health promotion and disease prevention<sup>4</sup>. Building on this, the Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre (ACSC), funded by the Victorian Government, conducted a literature review, environmental scan, Delphi study and expert consensus meeting to answer the question 'what quality criteria do survivorship experts consider to be important in achieving optimal cancer survivorship care?' and developed the Victorian Quality Cancer Survivorship Care Framework. This work is reflected in the Victorian Cancer Plan 2020-24, action area 4.3: 'Activity in the next four years will develop and implement a framework to define and measure the quality elements of survivorship care.'<sup>5</sup>

A peer-reviewed manuscript describing the development of this framework has now been published:

Lisy K, Ly L, Kelly H, Clode M, Jefford M. How Do We Define and Measure Optimal Care for Cancer Survivors? An Online Modified Reactive Delphi Study. *Cancers* (Basel). 2021 May 11; 13(10): 2299.

## Approach

### LITERATURE REVIEW AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

Australian and international peer-reviewed and grey literature (including organisational guidelines) were reviewed to develop putative components of quality survivorship care. Criteria were categorised into three domains: policy, process and outcome.

### DELPHI STUDY

An online modified reactive Delphi study was conducted over two rounds between May and September 2020. In round 1 (R1), participants were asked to rate the importance of each of 68 criteria on a five-point Likert scale (from not at all important to very important), and could make comments and suggest additions. Quantitative data were analysed according to pre-determined scoring thresholds (criteria were retained if scored important or very important by >75% participants) and results used to develop the round 2 (R2) survey. In R2, participants ranked their 10 most important items within each domain.

Response rates were 79% (70/89) and 84% (76/91) in R1 and R2. Participants were mostly Australian, mostly from Victoria; roughly equal numbers of healthcare providers, consumers and researchers. Following R1, six criteria were removed, six were added, and 18 criteria were revised. Following R2, the top ten items from each domain were combined to form the Victorian Quality Cancer Survivorship Care Framework, shown on the next page.

### CONSENSUS MEETING AND NEXT STEPS

In September 2020, ACSC staff (4) presented the Victorian Quality Cancer Survivorship Care Framework to a consensus meeting of 19 experts comprising; cancer survivors (2), program managers (3), health professionals (6), researchers (3) and staff from the Victorian Department of Health (5), for discussion regarding priority actions and feasibility of data collection, to operationalise the framework in Victoria over the next 12-24 months.

Polling showed that 100% (17/17) of the experts were satisfied that the framework describes the key elements of quality survivorship care in Victoria. There was general agreement to firstly progress work to develop a generic survivorship policy which can be tailored to health services, to document the organisation's approach around to the delivery of improved survivorship care. Experts also discussed leveraging existing data collection processes, including the Victorian Healthcare Experience Survey.

## Victorian Quality Cancer Survivorship Care Framework

	POLICY DOMAIN	PROCESS DOMAIN	OUTCOME DOMAIN
	<b>The organisation has a...</b>	<b>Cancer survivors are...</b>	<b>The organisation has a process to...</b>
1	policy that describes a framework for the provision of survivorship care	assessed for emotional and psychological effects of cancer and its treatment (e.g. anxiety, depression)	collect data on survivors' patient-reported outcomes
2	policy that requires the establishment or existence of a survivorship program either on-site or by referral	assessed for physical effects following primary treatment (e.g. pain, fatigue, weight loss or gain)	collect data on survivors' quality of life
3	policy outlining the team of multidisciplinary health professionals included in the survivorship program	stratified to appropriate models of care based on factors such as current needs and predicted risks	collect data on survival rates (e.g. one and five-year survival rates)
4	policy for the collection of data on survivors' experiences of survivorship care (e.g. satisfaction with care)	provided with treatment or referrals to manage physical effects of cancer and its treatment	collect data on recurrence rates
5	policy that outlines the role of consumers in the design, evaluation and reporting of survivorship programs	assessed for practical and social effects of cancer and its treatment (e.g. relationship difficulties, financial challenges, education and employment/return to work)	collect data on survivors' patient-reported experiences of care
6	policy for the evaluation of the survivorship program and reporting of progress	provided access to a survivorship program which addresses the needs of cancer survivors either on-site or by referral	collect data on survivors' return to previous functioning (e.g. work, study)
7	policy on stratifying survivors to appropriate models of care	assessed for their risk of recurrent or new cancer, including family history (as necessary)	collect data on survivors' functional capacity
8	policy outlining the provision of needs assessment tools for survivors at certain time points post-treatment	provided with a survivorship care plan that is shared with their primary care provider and/or other multidisciplinary health professionals involved in their care	collect data on the diagnosis of new cancers (for survivors)
9	policy that has a senior (executive) role identified as the organisational survivorship care champion	provided with recommendations regarding surveillance for recurrent or new cancers	collect data on carers' quality of life
10	policy that describes the process of survivorship care reporting within an organisational reporting framework	provided with treatment or referrals to manage psychosocial effects (e.g. to psychology services)	collect data on the number of survivors provided with a survivorship care plan

## References

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- Recommended citation:** Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre (2021) Victorian Quality Cancer Survivorship Care Framework.

Version 2: June 2021