

The Australian Brain Tumour Landscape

Brain cancer is a devastating and under-supported disease, imposing disproportionately high burdens and economic costs.



BRAIN TUMOUR
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Brain cancer results in significant disabilities and impairments, creating long-term healthcare demands

In 2025 alone, brain cancers are estimated to result in approximately:

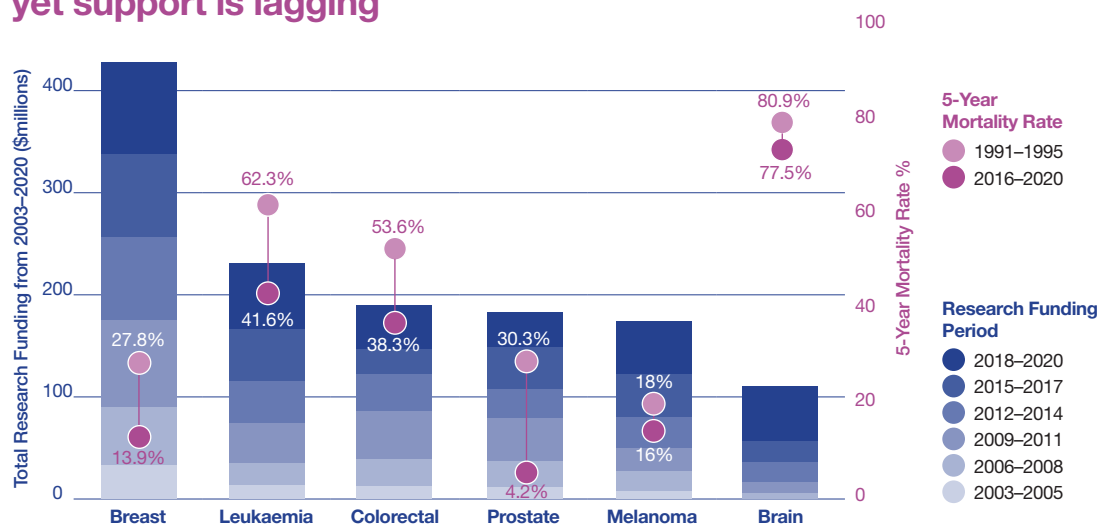
Years of life lost			Healthcare costs	
38,500	4,250	42,750	\$313m	Up to \$64,000
years of life lost due to premature death	years of healthy life lost due to disability	total disability – adjusted life years lost	for ongoing brain cancer treatment	per patient Home Care Package ~\$212,000 per NDIS package

Brain cancer limits the productivity of Australians, imposing an exceptional economic and social cost

In 2025, the productivity loss of patients & caregivers is estimated to be 9.3 million hours, costing Australia:

Paid economic activity lost		Total societal cost	
 Patients	 Carers	\$0.85 billion in 2025	\$3.2 billion by 2050*
\$251 million due to reduced ability to work	\$153 million due to responsibilities	*If current trends continue	

Brain cancer mortality exceeds other cancers, yet support is lagging



Source: Cancer Australia (2023), Cancer Research in Australia: An overview of funding for cancer research projects and programs in Australia



For references and further detail on the information presented, please refer to the full paper: *The Australian Brain Tumour Landscape*

Research & Trials

Research and clinical trials create the knowledge, treatments and innovations that clinical and supportive care teams can implement.



The ask to Government to support brain cancer research and clinical trials

Invest \$200 million over 10 years to establish the Australian Brain Cancer Mission (ABCM) 2.0

 Establish ABCM 2.0 as a renewed strategic partnership Invest \$200 million to reset and renew ABCM 2.0 as a co-designed partnership between government and philanthropy, strengthened by additional philanthropic contributions.	 Build a national research and trials roadmap Develop a comprehensive National Brain Cancer Research and Trials Roadmap that spans the full research continuum, including supportive and survivorship care.	 Strengthen research enabling capabilities Invest in the development of the workforce, infrastructure, data systems and collaborative networks needed to deliver scientific and clinical breakthroughs.
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The ABCM has delivered critical successes:

 Increased funding for brain cancer research through partnerships	 Expanded access to clinical trials	 Strengthened research and translational capacity	 Progressed survivorship research
First large-scale, co-funded mission between government and philanthropy	17 MRFF-funded projects - Provided >1,350 additional patients access to clinical trials 1,600 additional patients estimated to access trials over the next 5-years	- Attracted researchers - Funded shared infrastructure - Strengthened peak bodies including COGNO & ANZCHOG that coordinate and run clinical trials	- Addressed a critical funding gap 44% of funding dedicated towards survivorship-related outcomes

The Case for ABCM 2.0

The ABCM committed over \$136 million in 2017, the largest pooled investment in brain cancer research in Australian history.

Despite this, median survival has *not* improved, highlighting the need to do more and do it differently.

It is projected that over 16,500 Australians will die from brain cancer between 2017–2027. If current trends continue, over 2,600 Australians are expected to die each year by 2050.

ABCM 2.0 must build on the laid foundations to deliver breakthroughs to achieve improved survival, quality of life and survivorship.

Clinical Care



Clinical care ensures every patient can access and benefit from best practice care and treatment, while reducing fragmentation and health system burden.

The ask to Government to improve clinical care for brain cancer patients

Invest \$8.75 million to implement a national Brain Cancer Care Coordinator (BCCC) framework, including 23 specialised nurses



National framework for coordinated care
Implement a national BCCC Framework, to deliver consistent, end-to-end support for patients and families.



Embed coordinators in every care team
Embed BCCCs into multidisciplinary teams across metropolitan, regional and rural settings.



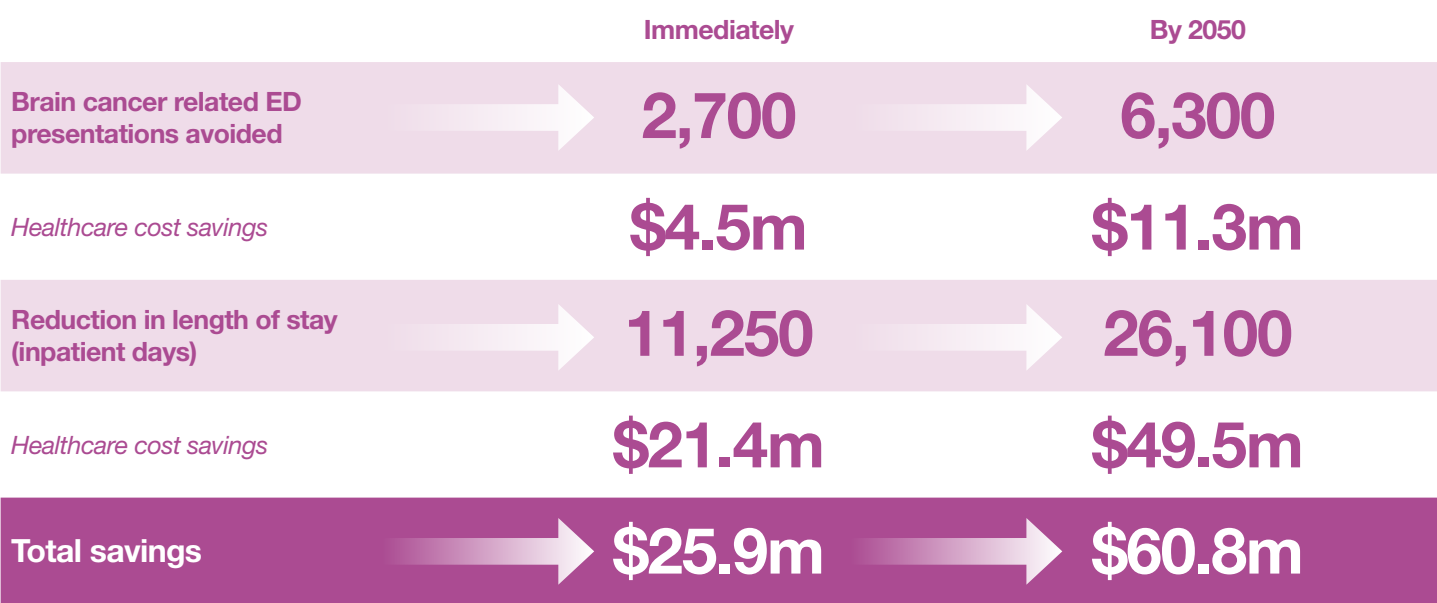
Data driven deployment and outcomes
Leverage the BRAINS survivorship program data to direct resources to greatest need and track measurable improvements in patient outcomes and service delivery.

As of 2025, there are only 29 BCCCs in Australia (20.6 full-time equivalent positions). This equates to one coordinator per 69 newly diagnosed patients.

Brain cancer patients have more complex needs than other cancer types and need specialised clinical care.

A dedicated national BCCC framework aligned with the ACNNP is needed to support brain cancer patients from diagnosis to end of life care.

The national rollout of a BCCC service for all glioblastoma patients would see approximately*:



*Note, the savings estimated exclude the cost of implementation

Support Services

Support services provide the scaffolding families need to survive the journey and ensures lived experience informs research and care design.



The ask to Government to scale brain cancer support services

Sustain and scale the National Advocacy Service (NAS) with \$1.175 million in dedicated annual funding



Invest in workforce capacity

The dedicated funding (\$1.175M per year) will secure 8 FTE specialist staff, to deliver the NAS, providing tailored navigation, psychosocial support, and equitable national reach.



Formalise the National Advocacy Service as a peak national service

Recognise the NAS as a national peak consumer support service, fully integrated with Brain Cancer Care Coordinators (BCCC) and aligned with national cancer navigation programs.

Australians with brain cancer face a critical gap in support



Brain cancer carries the greatest burden of any cancer, yet no government-backed, coordinated support service exists.



Patients and carers are left to navigate complex health, disability, and social systems without coordinated guidance.



Current support is underfunded, metro-centric and inconsistent, leaving many without the support they need.

The NAS is the only dedicated, national, consumer-led brain cancer support service bridging this gap in Australia.

The NAS is a trusted support service. Since its launch in December 2021, the NAS has:



Supported **~3,000** patients and families across Australia



650+ referrers including clinicians and allied health professionals, across **180** hospitals and service providers nationwide

Brain cancer devastates lives, but change is possible.

By investing in Research & Trials, Clinical Care, and Support Services as a unified national strategy, government can support the delivery of breakthroughs, equity, and hope that Australians with brain cancer deserve.

