BioSpectrum
the business of Bio & Health Sciences
ASIA EDITION

Data collection underway for ground-breaking cancer study in Australia

July 12, 2023 | News

The results will inform the implementation of the soon to be released Australian Cancer Plan



A first of its kind study exploring cancer in First Nations Australian communities has begun data collection with the launch of the Kulay Kalingka study. The research led by the Australian National University (ANU) will gather information about First Nations' experiences of cancer where no data currently exists.

Launched at Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation in Condobolin New South Wales (NSW), the study will fill important gaps in understanding experiences of cancer which is the fourth leading cause of burden of disease for First Nations people.

Funded by the Australian Government, through Cancer Australia, it's the first cancer study designed, governed and controlled by First Nations Australians.

The study is being led by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research team at the ANU's National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Research. The results will also inform the implementation of the soon to be released Australian Cancer Plan.

While Australia's cancer survival rates are among the best in the world, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience higher incidence and cancer mortality rates, and lower participation rates in bowel, breast, and cervical cancer population screening programs.

The collection of up to 3,000 stories told by First Nations people as part of this study will provide the evidence needed to inform the Government's policies, programmes and services to improve cancer outcomes.

The government has recently announced a major investment of $238.5 million to improve cancer outcomes, and provide culturally safe care for First Nations people.