

Cancer Council Registry Project

New South Wales (NSW) Cancer Institute was set up by the NSW Government to reduce cancer incidence, improve survival and support services for cancer patients in NSW. The major aim is to collect more information about cancer treatment and outcomes such as tumour staging, access to surgery, radiotherapy and medical oncology, and psychosocial and multidisciplinary team referrals.

To this end, the Clinical Cancer Registry project is being piloted in six Area Health Services including Hunter New England Area Health Service. Each site has a Project Manager, Cancer Information Managers and a web-based secure database (ClinCR) for collecting the 58 data items of the agreed Core Minimum Data Set and tumour specific extension data items.

Under the leadership of the Project Director, Dr Michael Seldon, the Hunter New England ClinCR team will be commencing data collection for patients having part or all of their cancer care in Hunter New England public health facilities. We are exploring ways to obtain information about staging, grading, treatment protocols and access to services from local databases to supplement data already collected by mandatory reporting.

Using this data, the ClinCR aims to provide all public departments involved in cancer services with timely reports about cancer diagnosis and treatment activity, and ultimately, survival of cancer patients by disease stage and treatment(s). ClinCR will also report other parameters at the Area level, including waiting times for treatment and quality of care.

For future phases of the project, the Cancer Institute is working with NSW Health legal branch to permit collection of private sector cancer activity and with NSW Oncology Groups to add further tumour-specific data items/extensions to the Minimum Data Set.

Contact the Cancer Information Program Manager Debra Hinton on 02 49223349 for further information or e-mail debra.hinton@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au <live link>.