



## Increasing access to health and aged care: a strategic plan for the nurse practitioner workforce (the Plan) – Consultation Draft

On 19 December 2022, the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care released for public feedback, a consultation draft of *Increasing access to health and aged care: a strategic plan for the nurse practitioner workforce* (the Plan). The purpose of the Plan is to describe a set of actions to address nurse practitioner workforce issues and enhance the delivery of nursing care to the Australian community.

Cancer Council Australia (Cancer Council), the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA), and Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) support the Department's position as detailed in the Consultation Draft of the Plan, that the role of Nurse Practitioners is particularly important and contributes positively to our health system and the health of all Australians. This is especially the case for cancer.

Our submission provided several considerations for the Department in progressing the Plan:

- Nurse Practitioners play a vital role across the spectrum of cancer control and it is important for action from both the Nurse Practitioner Plan and the Australian Cancer Plan to align and complement each other as together they can build the case for more Nurse Practitioners in cancer and progress toward this enhanced workforce across the next 10 years.
- While there have been pockets of success in enhancing the Nurse Practitioner workforce in cancer care, the lack of system-wide planning, development pathways and sustained funding remains an ongoing challenge.
- Ongoing commitment from the Australian Government towards supporting the role of Nurse Practitioners, through Commonwealth funding and effort, in conjunction with appropriate levels of input from the State and Territory governments, is required to ensure successful implementation of the Plan.

Information about the progress of the consultation, can be found on the consultation's [webpage](#).