



Factors influencing lung cancer outcomes in culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) populations – May 2025

FACTS:

- Approximately 30% of Australia's population is born overseas, with many from CALD backgrounds. These communities often face barriers to healthcare, such as language challenges, cultural insensitivity in health services, and stigma associated with lung cancer.
- Between 2011 and 2021, around 45,000 lung cancer cases were diagnosed in NSW, with an estimated 30% (13,500) occurring in CALD populations.

PROJECT CYCLE:

2024 - 2025

PARTNERS:

The George Institute for Global Health,
Australia

UNSW Sydney, Australia

South Western Sydney Local Health
District, Australia

SUPPORTERS:

UNSW Health Systems Research
Theme 2025 Collaborative Grant

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

Dr Vikneswary Batumalai

A/Prof Mei Ling Yap

BACKGROUND:

- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths globally, with CALD populations experiencing poorer outcomes, highlighting the need for research to inform targeted, effective interventions.
- In NSW, around one-third of lung cancer patients first present to emergency departments, however the extent and implications of this trend among CALD patients are not yet well understood.

AIM:

- To explore the underlying factors driving disparities in lung cancer outcomes between CALD and non-CALD populations by examining care pathways, access issues and continuity of care.
- To identify the CALD communities most disproportionately affected and understand the contributing factors behind these disparities.

METHODS:

- This project will analyse large-scale health datasets to investigate whether CALD patients are more frequently diagnosed following late-stage hospital admissions, rather than through earlier general practitioner (GP) visits.
- We will compare key indicators - including waiting times for cancer treatment, types of GP consultations, bulk-billing rates, and continuity of care – between CALD and non-CALD patients.

IMPACT

- By identifying barriers along the diagnosis and treatment pathways, the findings will inform strategies to improve access to care, particularly access to the upcoming National Lung Cancer Screening program.
- Through close collaboration with consumers and clinicians, this project aims to drive meaningful improvements in lung cancer outcomes for CALD communities.

CONTACT:

To find out more about this project, its investigators or The George Institute please contact
Tina Wall +61 410 411 983 OR
twall@georgeinstitute.org.au

THE GEORGE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH:

We're improving the lives of millions of people worldwide through innovative health research. Working across a broad health landscape, the Institute conducts clinical, population and health system research aimed at changing health practice and policy worldwide.