



Victorian Integrated Cancer Services Implementation Plan: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Staff Capacity Building Project Information bulletin, March 2022

PURPOSE

The Victorian Integrated Cancer Services engaged Healthcare Management Advisors (HMA) to develop a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan and staff education program for the implementation activities delivered under the Victorian Integrated Cancer Services Implementation Plan 2021–2024.

The monitoring aspects of the plan will focus on tracking program implementation and progress, while evaluation aspects will assess the overall program performance.

The staff education program aims to build the capacity of relevant staff across the nine ICS to enable them to apply evaluation methodology to projects under their supervision and ensure a consistent evaluation approach.

CONTEXT

The Victorian Department of Health established the Victorian Integrated Cancer Services (VICS) in 2005 as Victoria's cancer services improvement network to promote the development of a cohesive, integrated, and multidisciplinary approach to the provision of cancer care.

The Integrated Cancer Services (ICS) are clusters of hospitals and health services across Victoria that work together to plan and improve services for people with cancer. There are nine integrated cancer services, eight representing geographic locations and one state-wide service dedicated to paediatric cancer services. The Paediatric Integrated Cancer Service (PICS) works together with the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH), Monash Children's Hospital (MCH), Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and nine regional shared care centres to promote high-quality, safe and effective care for children and adolescents with cancer and provide access to these services as close to home as possible.

VICS brings together stakeholders including clinicians, researchers and consumers as part of work to develop and implement cancer service improvement activities. The VICS implementation plan articulates how VICS will work together towards addressing their roles and responsibilities in addressing the goals of the Victorian Cancer Plan 2020–2024. It runs over a two-year period 2021–2022 and is made up of three priority areas, as follows:

- improve access to high-quality cancer care
 - improve adoption of quality cancer care closer to home
 - increase alignment with the multidisciplinary meeting quality framework
 - address the needs of the older person in routine cancer care
- support the implementation of Optimal Care Pathways (OCPs)
 - implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander OCP
 - address variation in quality and timeliness of cancer care
 - monitor and communicate alignment with OCPs, and
- improve wellbeing for all Victorians affected by cancer
 - facilitate high-quality supportive and survivorship care
 - address variation in palliative care referrals and advance care planning.

PROJECT APPROACH AND TIMING

The project will be undertaken in five stages as follows:

- (1) **Scoping the M&E Framework** in conjunction with VICS project manager to understand the full scope of activities to be implemented and work previously undertaken (March 2022).
- (2) **Development of program theories, program logics, and evaluation questions** to support the M&E Framework involving desktop review of program documentation and consultation with key VICS personnel (April–May 2022).
- (3) **Development of M&E Plans** for the three priority areas identified, including development of key outcomes measures, indicators and measures of change and targets for change where relevant (May 2022).
- (4) **Development of a plan for data collection, management, analysis, and synthesis** based on the outcomes, indicators and measures. The plans will outline sources of suitable data, timing and responsibility of collection to promote consistent reporting among the nine ICS across Victoria (June 2022).
- (5) **Implementation of M&E capacity building workshops** for VICS staff to promote consistency across the ICS, and upskill staff (July–August 2022).

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information on the project please contact

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