

The Thoracic Society of Australia & New Zealand Update

04 May 2023

Thoracic Society supports National Targeted Lung Cancer Screening Program and thanks Minister Butler on his commitment to lung health

TSANZ recognises the Australian Government commitment of \$267 million over 4 years to fund a National Targeted Lung Cancer Screening Program. This is a timely investment into an evidence-based program that will improve the outcomes of Australia's deadliest cancer killer – lung cancer.

TSANZ CEO Vincent So congratulates the Health Minister, the Hon Minister Butler on his commitment to lung health, "The government this week has given the lung cancer community the support they need begin to get ahead of this insidious disease. Lung cancer screening is integral in increasing the likelihood of early detection, which facilitates appropriate and timely treatments and ultimately, contributes to better overall outcomes."

Screening reduces lung cancer mortality and health burden and therefore both societal and direct health costs. TSANZ President, Professor Anne Holland explains "Lung Cancer diagnosis unfortunately occurs most often in the advanced stage of disease. A targeted screening program of at-risk populations will capture individuals with early-stage disease and will therefore increase the proportion of individuals amenable to curative treatment."

There is more work to be done to ensure people effected by lung cancer receive the care they deserve. The implementation phase must include targeted engagement with healthcare practitioners and incorporate delivery of education and smoking cessation programs. We look forward to working with the Department of Health to ensure timely implementation of a quality service for at-risk Australians. The TSANZ is committed to continuing to provide a trusted, evidence-based voice and advice on best-practice clinical care.

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