



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**4 February 2020**

### **MORE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE CANCER TREATMENT NEEDED, REVEALS INTERNATIONAL SURVEY**

Survey results released today reveal that investment in health infrastructure should be a priority for governments to ensure equal access to cancer care.

To mark the 20th anniversary of World Cancer Day, the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) commissioned a global survey to form an up-to-date picture of the public's experiences, views, and behaviours around cancer. The survey included more than 15,000 adults across 20 countries in the first multi-country public survey on cancer perceptions in a decade.

Those surveyed in Australia said the most important actions governments should take are making cancer services affordable (45%), supporting research (32%) and ensuring equal access for everyone (30%).

One in four people surveyed globally (25%) said investing in health infrastructure should be a priority activity for governments, and the same number reported that governments should ensure equal access to cancer care for everyone.

RANZCR President Dr Lance Lawler said, "Cancer affects millions of people across the world. These survey results demonstrate that making cancer services and treatment more affordable and accessible needs to be a priority.

"We know that one in two cancer patients would benefit from radiation therapy at some time during their cancer experience. However, less than one in three patients in Australia and New Zealand will actually receive radiation therapy. This is due to many factors including access barriers, particularly in regional locations and lack of knowledge about modern radiation therapy amongst patients and referrers.

"It is imperative that all patients who could benefit from it have timely access to radiation oncology services, regardless of location, ethnicity, and other social factors."

For more information on radiation therapy visit [www.targetingcancer.com.au](http://www.targetingcancer.com.au)

You can read the full survey results in the UICC's report [\*International Public Opinion Survey on Cancer 2020: What people feel, think and believe about cancer today.\*](#)

**ENDS**

***For media enquiries please contact Lucy Hutton, Senior Media and Communications Officer on 0431 190 293.***

### **Notes to editor**

The UICC global survey did not include responses from New Zealand.

### **About RANZCR**

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) is the peak body advancing best practice across clinical radiology and radiation oncology for the benefit of patients and the healthcare system.

RANZCR's role is to drive the safe and appropriate use of clinical radiology and radiation oncology to optimise health outcomes. Through leadership, education and advocacy, we support 4,500 members to provide quality services to patients. We administer world-class training programs for admission into our professions, accredit training sites, assess overseas-trained specialists, and oversee professional development by our members.

### **About World Cancer Day 2020**

World Cancer Day takes place every year on 4 February and is a global initiative to raise the profile of cancer. Spearheaded by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), the day aims to save millions of preventable deaths each year by raising awareness and improving education about the disease while calling for action from governments and individuals across the world.

For more information, please visit: [www.worldcancerday.org](http://www.worldcancerday.org)