



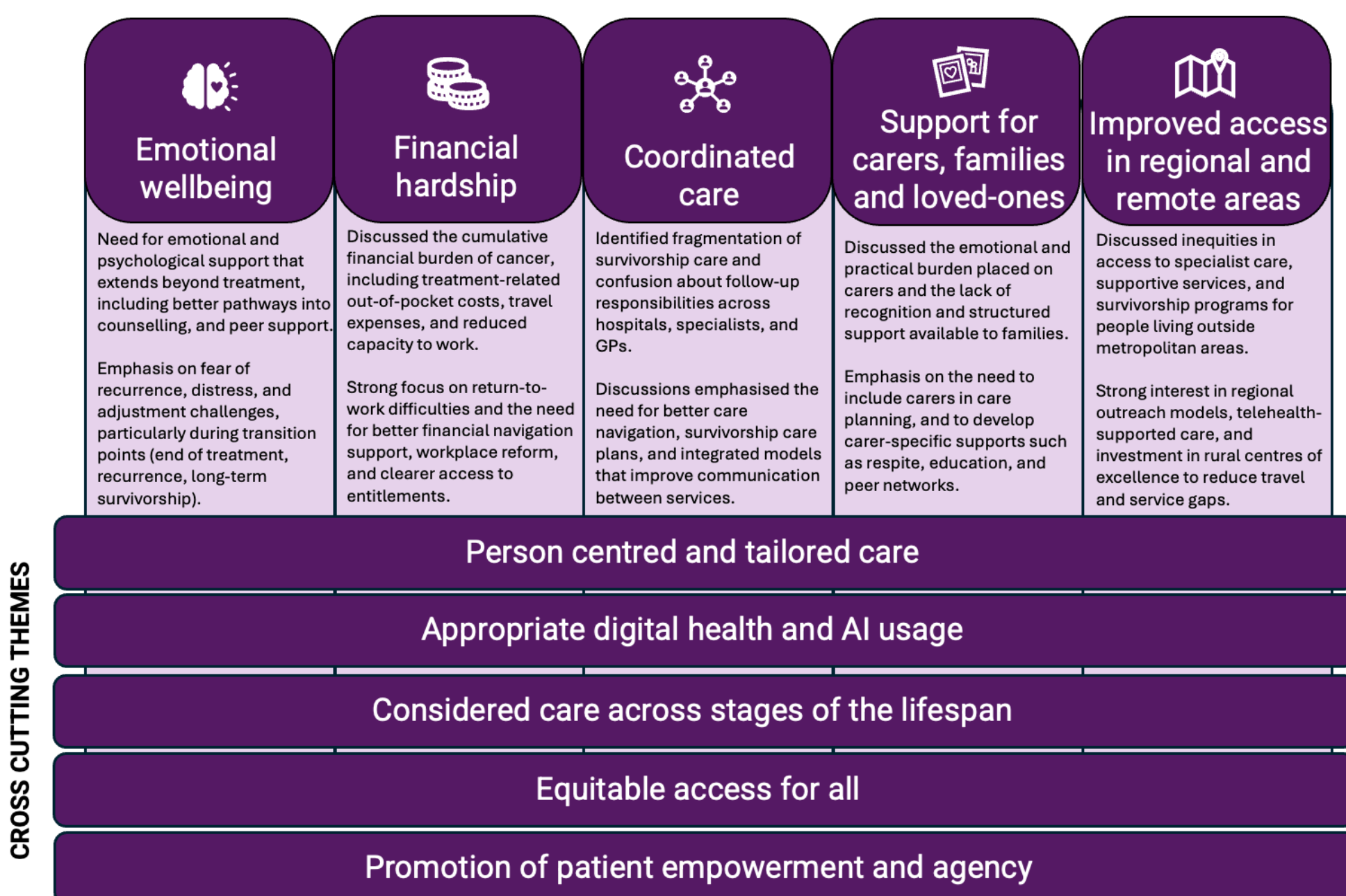
LIVED EXPERIENCE PRIORITIES FOR CANCER SURVIVORSHIP RESEARCH

Background

This policy brief summarises the outcomes of a 2025 priority-setting workshop that brought together people living with and beyond cancer, and carers, to identify what matters most for cancer survivorship research in Australia. The workshop responded to the identified need of including the cancer survivor perspective in research priority-setting, ensuring that people affected by cancer can directly inform research agendas. The focus was to identify priority areas for research investment, and strengthen the relevance and impact of future research on outcomes, equity, and quality of life across the cancer survivorship journey.

Here, we present the five priority cancer research areas and five cross-cutting themes identified through the workshop. We anticipate these findings will be useful for consideration in future survivorship policy development, service planning, and research funding decisions, including the ongoing development of the next national and state-based cancer plans.

Cancer Survivorship Research Priorities Identified by those affected by cancer



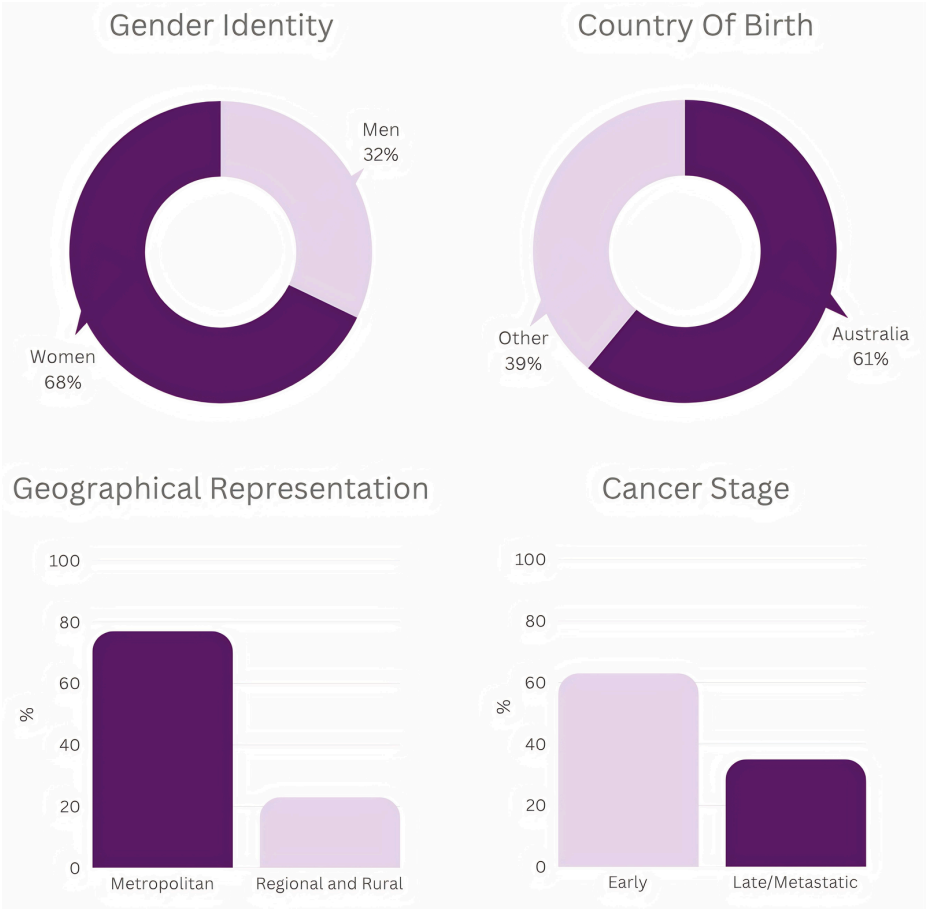
Key Takeaways

- People affected by cancer want structured, ongoing involvement in ‘big picture’ research priority setting.
- Five clear research priorities and five cross-cutting themes were identified through a rigorous, inclusive process.
- Embedding these priorities into funding and policy considerations may strengthen consumer participation and support improvements in cancer survivorship outcomes, equity, and quality of life.

Why We Held This Workshop

Cancer survivorship is increasingly recognised as a critical area for research and health service planning, particularly as more people live longer with and beyond cancer. While previous national work has identified important priorities for survivorship research and care, these efforts have often been led primarily by clinicians, researchers, and service providers, with limited opportunity for people with lived experience to set the agenda themselves. We held this workshop to address that gap by creating a dedicated, cancer survivor-led process to identify survivorship research priorities directly from the perspectives of people affected by cancer.

Diverse Workshop Attendees



A total of 56 people attended the workshop, including people living with and beyond cancer and carers. Participants ranged in age from 18 to 81 years (mean 58 years), and included 38 women (68%) and 18 men (32%). The workshop included representation from both metropolitan and non-metropolitan communities, including 23% living in regional and rural areas (Modified Monash Model MM2-MM5). The group reflected diverse cultural backgrounds. Most participants were born in Australia (n=34, 61%), with others born in a range of other countries (n=22, 39%), including England, China, Canada, India, Lebanon, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Spain, Taiwan, the United States, and Vietnam. In addition, participants reported multiple ethnicities, including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples (n=3, 5%).

There was also representation across a broad range of cancer experiences, including 17 cancer types, with participants living with early-stage disease (stage 0-III, 63%) as well as those living with advanced or metastatic cancer (stage IV, 35%). This diversity helped ensure the priorities captured a wide range of cancer survivorship experiences.

Implications

When given structured opportunities to participate, people affected by cancer articulated clear, meaningful priorities for survivorship research. These areas reflect issues raised by participants based on their lived experience and provide directions for future research and policy considerations in survivorship care.

For More Information:

The organising team welcomes further discussion about how these priorities can inform policy and future investment in cancer survivorship research and practice across Australia.

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