

## LUNG FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA

### Comment to Medicines Australia Oncology Industry Taskforce

*"When you can't breathe...  
nothing else matters"*<sup>TM</sup>

Lung Foundation Australia (Lung Foundation) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the recent report *Access to cancer medicines in Australia: Deloitte Access Economics, July 2013* released by the Medicines Australia Oncology Industry Taskforce. Lung Foundation welcomes the opportunity to be part of an open discussion around this topic which affects those diagnosed with Lung Cancer in Australia.

As noted in the report Cancer is an area of high clinical need in Australia, with Australia having the highest age-standardised incidence of cancer in the world. Globally lung cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed and the fourth most common cancer diagnosed in Australia for both men and women. The incidence of Lung Cancer, in Australia, is expected to increase by a further 40% by 2020.

This report captures the impact of all cancers but highlights the severity of lung cancer in our communities with more years of life lost from lung cancer than any other cancer.

Our experience is that patients who have been diagnosed with lung cancer currently have limited therapy options and face multiple barriers, especially given its normally late presentation. There are many new lung cancer medicines or chemical entities currently in phase II and III that lung cancer patients must have timely, affordable and equitable access to.

The new frontier of precision medicine offers patients the opportunity for molecular testing, leading to optimal, targeted individualised treatment based on their genetic profile. As cancer medicines have evolved so should the regulatory and reimbursement processes and systems. Existing processes must be innovative and progress to meet the emerging challenges.

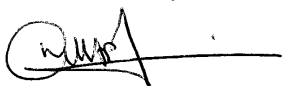
The Lung Foundation acknowledge that the current regulatory and reimbursement approval systems have served to ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of new medicines whilst demonstrating the clinical and cost effectiveness including the financial feasibility. Now there is an additional layer of complexity with treatment advances in chemotherapy biomarker driven therapies in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer.

The Australian approval processes of the TGA, PBAC and MSAC must undertake a collaborative review with a focus to streamline its processes and timelines, acknowledging that with new medicines that these processes of review should be ongoing and adaptable.

Australians deserve a world class health system, where new medicines are available as soon as possible for patients through the PBS. It's encouraging to see in the *Coalition's Policy to Support Australia's Health System* that the Coalition will restore the independence of the PBAC and restore integrity to the PBS listing process.

In conclusion, Australian's who are diagnosed with lung cancer should have timely access to affordable & proven treatments that are efficient and safe, that have a minimal impact on the patients themselves. As new therapies which are targeted at specific cancer types are developed, a greater understanding of lung cancer and the target patient subgroups will be gained – allowing Doctors to better treat lung cancer patients with evidence based therapies.

Yours sincerely,



Mr William Darbishire, Chief Executive Officer



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## LUNG CANCER IN AUSTRALIA – a snapshot

### Incidence

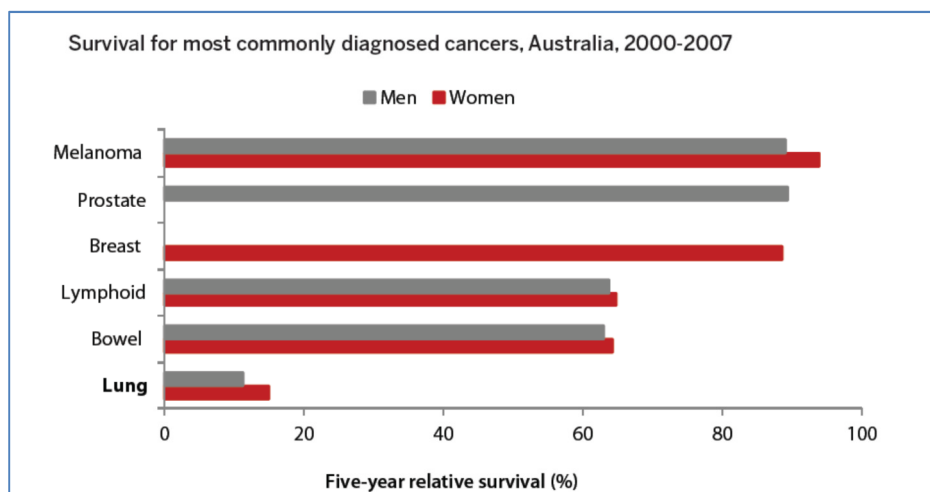
- Lung cancer was the fourth most common cancer in both men and women in Australia, with a total of 9703 lung cancers diagnosed in 2007.
- The incidence rate was almost twice as high for men (58 cases per 100,000) than women (31 cases per 100,000) in 2007.
- On average, 16 men and 10 women were diagnosed with lung cancer each day in 2007.
- Over the past 26 years (1982-2007) incidence rates have decreased by 32% in men but increased by 72% in women.
- In 2007, the risk of being diagnosed with lung cancer by the age of 85 years was 1 in 12 for men and 1 in 23 for women.
- The mean age at lung cancer diagnosis is 71 years for men and 70 years for women.

### Mortality

- Lung cancer was the leading cause of cancer deaths in both men and women in Australia in 2007.
- On average, 13 men and eight women die from lung cancer every day in Australia (with a total of 7626 deaths from lung cancer in 2007).
- The mortality rate was almost twice as high for men (46 deaths per 100,000) than women (24 deaths per 100,000) in 2007.
- Over the past 26 years (1982-2007) mortality rates have decreased in men but increased in women.
- Lung cancer accounts for 1 in every 14 deaths in men and 1 in every 25 deaths in women from any cause.

### Survival

- Only 13 out of 100 individuals with lung cancer survive five years beyond their diagnosis.
- Five-year relative survival was higher in women (15%) than in men (11%) in 2000-2007.
- From 1982–1987 to 2000–2007 in Australia, five-year relative survival increased from 8% to 11% for men diagnosed with lung cancer and from 10% to 15% for women.
- The survival rates for those diagnosed with lung cancer are considerably lower than survival rates for other common cancers.



*Note: All data including the data presented in graphs are from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and Cancer Australia report Lung Cancer in Australia: an overview*



## About the Foundation

Lung Foundation Australia is a national organisation which was originally established as The Australian Lung Foundation in 1990 to provide support to patients and carers burdened by lung disease and to ensure lung health is a priority for all in Australia. Our work also focuses on bringing together Key Opinion Leaders in respiratory medicine; and generating awareness about the importance of positive lung health within the community.

Lung Foundation Australia delivers programs to assist in reducing the impact of lung disease. These initiatives are guided by multi-disciplinary consultative groups, comprised of key opinion leaders in the field of respiratory medicine who provide clinical advice and strategic guidance.

## Vision and Goals

To 'ensure lung health is a priority for all in Australia'

We achieve this through provision of ...

- Leadership
- Advocacy
- Information
- Support for Research
- Patient and Carer Support
- Education and Training
- And ...Working with and through other organisations.

Lung Foundation Australia's Lung Cancer National Program works with our communities to reduce the impact of lung cancer and plays a lead role in improving outcomes for patients, carers, families and the community we serve. The Lung Cancer National Program consists of four main aspects which are the Lung Cancer Consultative Group (LCCG), the Australasian Lung cancer Trials Group (ALTG), the Kylie Johnston Lung Cancer Network (KJLCN) and the ANZ-Lung Cancer Nurses Forum (ANZ-LCNF).

For more information on activities of the Lung Foundation please visit our website:

[www.lungfoundation.com.au](http://www.lungfoundation.com.au)

