

Walking for survival: inaugural walk to carry indigenous cancer outcomes into the spotlight

Friday, 31 January 2014

As a precursor to World Cancer Day, hundreds of Brisbane residents will descend on Musgrave Park on Sunday, 2 February to participate in the inaugural Musgrave Park Cancer Walk to raise cancer awareness among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Indigenous Australians are at greater risk of receiving a cancer diagnosis and 50 per cent more likely to die from cancer than non-Indigenous Australians.

The Musgrave Park Cancer Walk will bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous people together to acknowledge community members and their families who have been affected by cancer. It aims to encourage discussion about cancer among Indigenous Australians, and build awareness of the availability of cancer services, treatments and care options, as well as ways to prevent and detect cancer early.

When: Sunday, 2 February 2014; 3:00pm for 3:30pm start

Where: Musgrave Park, Brisbane City

Media contact:

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Media note

Indigenous breast cancer survivor Adelaide Saylor is available for pre and post event interviews.

View the media release at:

http://www.menzies.edu.au/icms_docs/178285_Brisbane_Cancer_Walk_to_push_Indigenous_cancer_into_the_spotlight.pdf

Facts about Indigenous cancer

- Cancer survival is lower for Indigenous Australians than it is for non-Indigenous Australians. It is the second leading cause of death among Indigenous people, accounting for a greater number of deaths each year than diabetes and kidney disease
- The death rate for all cancers combined and for most individual cancers is significantly higher for Indigenous than other Australians: e.g. cervical cancer (4.4 times), lung cancer (1.8), pancreatic cancer (1.3) and breast cancer in females (1.3)
- Indigenous Australians have a much lower incidence of some cancers compared to other Australians (breast, prostate, testicular, colorectal and brain cancer, melanoma of skin, lymphoma and leukaemia) but they have a much higher incidence of others (lung and other smoking-related cancers, cervix, uterus and liver cancer).
- Cervical cancer incidence rate is almost three times as higher for Indigenous Australians as for non-Indigenous Australians (18 and 7 per 100,000 respectively).
- Incidence rates of lung cancer are significantly higher for Indigenous Australians than for non-Indigenous Australians (1.9 times)

Menzies Background

Menzies School of Health Research is Australia's only Medical Research Institute dedicated to improving Indigenous health and wellbeing. We have a 28-year history of scientific discovery and public health achievement. Menzies works at the frontline, partnering with over 60 Indigenous communities across Northern and Central Australia. We collaborate to create resources, grow local skills and find enduring solutions to problems that matter.