

MEDIA RELEASE

Cancer Resources for First Nations Australians

(Melbourne, Australia, 26 August 2025) - Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) Australia is proud to announce the launch of new, culturally appropriate educational resources aimed to support First Nations Australians diagnosed with cancer and their carers.

The handouts have been developed and designed in collaboration with Aboriginal creative agency Mumbulla Creative and endorsed by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

Co-designed with cancer patients, community and clinicians, the resources aim to help First Nations Australian patients through their cancer diagnosis and treatment journey, with one handout dedicated to lung cancer treatment and another handout focused on preparing for cancer surgery.

These resources demonstrate BMS Australia's commitment to improving health outcomes and providing tailored support to First Nations Australians. The resources are a step towards helping to bridge the health disparity between First Nations and non-Indigenous Australians, which is a focus for BMS as it continues on its reconciliation journey as part of its Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.

Mumbulla Creative Director and Artist and proud Kurna and Narungga woman, Charmaine Mumbulla, said, "We hope these resources make it easier for Mob to understand what may happen during their cancer treatment journey."

Owen Smith, General Manager of Bristol Myers Squibb Australia & New Zealand, emphasised the importance of this initiative. He stated, "As a contributor to this country's healthcare system, we have a responsibility to understand and respond to the unique cultural and healthcare needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Providing resources and support for cancer patients within these communities is a step in the right direction. Self-determination is a guiding principle, and self-determination in healthcare policy is essential in addressing structural inequalities. We are committed to continuing to invest in initiatives that aim to make a positive impact on the lives of First Nations Australians."

Cancer is currently the leading cause of death for First Nations Australians (accounting for 23.4% of all deaths). Between 2010 and 2019, the cancer death rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples increased by 12% while the non-Indigenous Australians rate decreased by 10%. This resulted in a widening of the absolute gap between First Nations people and non-Indigenous Australians. First Nations people have lower cancer screening rates and are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer at more advanced stages resulting in lower cancer survival rates¹. Lung cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers for First Nations Australians.²

For more information, please visit our website bms.com/au

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¹ [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare \(2025\). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework: summary report June 2025. AIHW: Australian Government. Accessed August 2025.](#)

² [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare \(2018\). Cancer in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people of Australia, March 2018. Accessed August 2025.](#)

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