



## Ethnicity, migration and cancer

Understanding disparities in access and outcomes – May 2025

### FACTS:

- Cancer is a leading cause of death in NSW, accounting for more than 14,000 deaths in 2017.
- Recent migrants and refugees experience higher rates of infectious diseases, nutritional deficiencies and undiagnosed or undertreated chronic illnesses. Certain infection-related cancers are more prevalent among some migrant groups compared to the Australian-born population.

### BACKGROUND:

- Recent migrants, refugees and people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds are a particularly vulnerable group in Australia, often presenting with advanced-stage cancer and facing limited access to appropriate health services.
- While evidence is growing around the specific health care needs of recent migrants, refugees and people from CALD backgrounds, research into cancer control within these populations has been limited – primarily due to gaps in available data.

### AIM:

- To characterise and address important gaps in the incidence, prognosis and management of cancer among recent migrants, refugees and people from CALD backgrounds.

### METHODS:

- Data from multiple sources – including the 2011 and 2016 Census, MBS, PBS, death registrations, Australian Immunisation Register, National Disability Insurance Scheme, DOMINO, ATO, and migration dataset – will be linked and relevant variables extracted for statistical analysis.

### PROJECT CYCLE:

2024 - 2030

### PARTNERS:

NSW Cancer Institute

### SUPPORTERS:

NHMRC Investigator Grant 2023 - 2028

Movember Foundation Health Equity Grant 2025 - 2028

RANZCR Research Grant - Radiation Oncology 2023

UNSW Cancer Theme Seed Grant 2023

SPHERE Cancer CAG EMCR Seed Grant 2023

### PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

A/Prof Mei Ling Yap

Dr Vikneswary Batumalai

### IMPACT

- The findings will help identify specific patient groups and communities requiring targeted education on cancer prevention and screening, as well as those who may need improved access to care. The project will also highlight potential barriers and inform policy changes required to support equitable healthcare access for CALD populations.
- More broadly, implementing recommendations from the project's health economic evaluation could result in health systems cost savings and support the delivery of more efficient, value-based care.

### CONTACT:

To find out more about this project, its investigators or The George Institute please contact Tina Wall +61 410 411 983 OR [twall@georgeinstitute.org.au](mailto:twall@georgeinstitute.org.au)

### THE GEORGE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH:

We're improving the lives of millions of people worldwide through innovative health research. Working across a broad health landscape, the Institute conducts clinical, population and health system research aimed at changing health practice and policy worldwide.