



PRIORITY AREA: CANCER ECONOMICS

Roadmap Options for Melanoma Screening in Australia (Melanoma-ROSA)

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Australia has among the highest rates of skin cancers in the world. Due to our awareness of the dangers of the sun, there is already substantial early detection in Australia through skin checking by patients or doctors. However, this opportunistic or informal screening is achieved mostly by a clinical skin examination without photographic documentation. We are performing research to address whether Australia would be better off with a targeted melanoma screening program that is equitable in its reach, trustworthy for patients and clinicians and cost-effective for the community and the healthcare system.

What is the study?

This is a large program of work that will provide a blueprint for a nationwide policy strategy for effective skin screening and surveillance. Specifically, the research at Cancer Council Queensland will address the policy and cost-effectiveness aspects of a proposed screening program. We are also answering the question of whether digital technology and/or artificial intelligence can increase equity of access and whether screening will be trustworthy for patients. We are undertaking population-based modelling to understand if initial risk assessment plus total-body photography and artificial intelligence is a cost-effective solution for targeted melanoma screening in Australia.

Why is this project important?

Cancer screening is one of the most effective ways to improve early detection of cancer and reduce cancer deaths. We anticipate that the evidence created from this project will inform the Australian Federal Government's plans to consider an Australian-first skin cancer screening program based on risk-stratification.