

MAY 2026

# PROGRESS UPDATE



## Roadmap for a National Targeted Melanoma Screening Program

Since March 2025 Roadmap Workstreams have been meeting regularly to discuss and define key elements of a potential screening program design, evaluate available evidence supporting these elements and plan research to address evidence gaps. We have compiled an interim Evidence Synthesis Report for Roadmap members to support alignment on key recommendations and to identify priorities for ongoing evidence gathering.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has collated and analysed a comprehensive body of national data on melanoma and skin cancer, providing vital insights into incidence, mortality, survival, geographic variation and age patterns, as well as emerging analyses relating to equity and priority populations. In addition, discussions with stakeholders have helped inform the description of the current landscape of early detection activities for melanoma.

We have initiated several targeted research activities to address identified evidence gaps, including

a 25-year follow-up of the pilot melanoma screening trial conducted in Queensland from 1998 to 2001. This remains the only community-based, randomised controlled trial of melanoma screening globally; follow-up of the participants through data-linkage will provide important information on screening outcomes, potential benefits and harms and health economic data.

The Health Economic Modelling teams in Workstream 4 have been building and calibrating models to help evaluate the available data and weigh-up the benefits, harms and costs of potential screening program

pathways. The models will initially focus on the most likely screening scenarios, with additional scenarios modelled as further data become available.

Ultimately, in the final Roadmap, we will need to provide recommendations for a potential screening program that aligns with the Australian Population Based Screening Framework with supporting evidence to a standard that would allow evaluation by the Medical Services Advisory Committee. This Committee advises the Government on whether medical services will be safe and cost-effective.

## KEY ROADMAP RECOMMENDATIONS TO DATE

### MOVING TOWARDS A FOCUS ON MELANOMA SCREENING

The Roadmap members, including the Consumer and Community Advisory Committee, have reached consensus that the proposed screening program should focus on the detection of melanoma. This recommendation was reached after careful consideration of the available evidence and has been endorsed by the Federal Health Minister. Members agree that this offers the best opportunity to bring about change to lower the impact of skin cancer for the Australian population. This consensus position includes the recommendation to define a clear pathway for the assessment and management of any non-melanoma skin cancers and other skin conditions that would inevitably be identified in addition to melanomas and to enhance the collection of data on non-melanoma skin cancers for future considerations.

More information about this decision can be found [here](#)

## ELIGIBILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH A PREVIOUS MELANOMA DIAGNOSIS, RISK COMMUNICATION AND PRIMARY PREVENTION.

The Roadmap members have also recommended that melanoma survivors be included in the target population, given their very high risk of developing new primary melanomas in the future. This recommendation requires additional detail around the intersection with usual care pathways and entry or re-entry timelines for screening. Providing individual risk assessment results to participants is also an important recommendation due to evidence showing some benefits (e.g. improved sun protection behaviour) and no evidence of harm. Integration of primary prevention into a proposed screening program is another important component being discussed by the Workstreams.

## STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Our Stakeholder Engagement Manager has met with over 100 stakeholder organisations and individuals to initiate engagement highlighting the strong, genuine interest in the program but also the diverse and complex landscape of skin cancer checks and practice. A high-level stakeholder consultation was held at the Annual Collaborators meeting in March (see overleaf). These initial conversations will now be followed up by targeted, in-depth consultations through focus groups and interviews with representatives from different stakeholder groups and priority populations. We will use these insights to inform the development of the Roadmap with a particular emphasis on the acceptability and feasibility of potential melanoma screening program design elements.



## ANNUAL COLLABORATORS MEETING

We hosted the Annual Collaborators Meeting for the Roadmap on Friday 27 March.

Over 100 people from across Australia came together, including Roadmap Workstream and Committee members, and representatives from many stakeholder organisations and communities.

The day featured a review of the evidence and data collected to date by Workstreams, Roadmap Operations team, and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), which are informing the design of a potential melanoma screening program. Participants also discussed preliminary recommendations and shortlisted options for key elements of a screening program. These options will be subject to rigorous examination and testing through health economic modelling.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to this productive day. We look forward to building on these conversations in the year ahead!

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

## WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

Prof Anne Cust (Roadmap Lead) and Amy Young (AIHW) presented an overview of the Roadmap, current evidence, and key screening pathway elements, alongside national skin cancer data. This session helped establish a common baseline of understanding and highlighted both strengths and limitations in the evidence.

## PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Prof David Whiteman (QIMR) presented some of the key early decisions, including the decision to focus on a melanoma screening program, considerations for people with previous melanoma, and the communication of risk assessment outcomes. In interactive discussions, the audience tested assumptions and priorities.

## LEARNING FROM OTHER SCREENING PROGRAMS

Prof Vivienne Milch (Cancer Australia) presented insights from the implementation of the National Lung Cancer Screening Program, reflecting on lessons relevant to



melanoma screening, including implementation challenges and health system impacts.

## CONSUMER AND COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS

Craig Lawn (Chair, Consumer and Community Advisory Committee) shared perspectives on progress so far, highlighting the importance of clear communication, transparency, and how the consumer voice is shaping the Roadmap.

## PANEL DISCUSSION

Prof David Whiteman facilitated a panel discussion with Workstream and Committee Chairs to:

- Share key insights from their areas of work
- Reflect on emerging priorities and challenges
- Identify areas where further evidence and collaboration are needed

## FOCUSED PATHWAY DISCUSSIONS

In the afternoon, Roadmap members participated in in-depth discussions on a shortlist of options for potential screening pathways which will be subjected to modelling. These sessions explored:

- Which pathway elements should be prioritised first
- Feasibility, equity, and implementation considerations
- Key assumptions and uncertainties for modelling

## STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

In a parallel session, Stakeholders took part in a focus group discussion on a potential screening pathway, providing valuable input to inform the next phase of assessing the feasibility and acceptability of different screening program designs.

**A more detailed report from the day can be found [here](#)**

## SCHEDULED MEETINGS/ EVENTS

Roadmap members will be presenting on Roadmap progress at scientific conferences throughout the year including:

### MAY

- The Australasian College of Dermatologists Annual Scientific Meeting
- The Australasian Skin Cancer Conference
- The MIA Melanoma and Skin cancer Nurse Symposium
- The IARC@60 conference

### JULY

- The HealthCert Education Skin Cancer Conference

### AUGUST - OCTOBER 2026

- Targeted stakeholder consultations



Australian Government  
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

NATIONAL ROADMAP FOR SKIN CANCER SCREENING  
– AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE.

If you would like to read more about the Program, please visit the Roadmap webpage:  
[melanoma.org.au/research/roadmap-targeted-skin-cancer-screening-program/](https://melanoma.org.au/research/roadmap-targeted-skin-cancer-screening-program/)

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