

Lung Foundation Australia

About us

Lung Foundation Australia is the only national charity dedicated to supporting anyone with a lung disease. Since 1990, we have been the national first point-of-call for patients, their families, carers, health professionals and the general community. Our Mission is to improve lung health and reduce the impact of lung disease for all Australians by:

- Supporting those with lung disease, their families and carers.
- Driving world class research.
- Promoting lung health and timely diagnosis of lung disease.
- Providing clinical support and education.
- Promoting equitable access to evidence-based care.

The organisation relies on the generosity of the community through donations, membership, bequests, grants, and support from business and industry. **Find out more at lungfoundation.com.au**

Fast facts

Lung disease overview

- There are over 30 types of lung disease
- 1 in 4 Australians have a lung disease ⁱ
- Lung disease is responsible for more than 10% of Australia's overall health burden ⁱⁱ
- 1 in 7 deaths are a result of lung disease ⁱⁱ
- Over 50% of Australian adults rarely think about their lung health ⁱⁱⁱ

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

- 1 in 7 Australians over 40 have COPD, many don't know it ^{iv}
- COPD is the 2nd leading cause of avoidable hospital admissions^v

Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)

- IPF is a debilitating and fatal lung disease
- The prevalence of IPF is estimated at 1.25–63 out of 100 000^{vi}

Lung Cancer - Australia's biggest cancer killer

- Lung cancer kills more Australians than breast, prostate and ovarian cancers combined^{vii}
- 25 people die each day from lung cancer ^{vii}
- Approximately 12,500 people will be diagnosed with lung cancer in 2017 ^{viii}
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 10 men diagnosed with lung cancer will have never smoked ^{vii}

Challenges

- Publicity, empathy, research and funding for lung diseases in Australia remain extremely low
- Of 15 nationalities, Australians have the least sympathy for people with lung cancer ^{vii}
- Less than 5 cents of every cancer research dollar goes to lung cancer ^{ix}

ⁱ AIHW, 2016, <http://www.aihw.gov.au/chronic-respiratory-conditions/>

ⁱⁱ Lung Disease in Australia, 2014, Woolcock Institute of Medical Research

ⁱⁱⁱ Galaxy Research Omnibus, January 2014 (wave 1)

^{iv} Toelle B, Xuan W, Bird T, Abramson M, Atkinson D, Burton D, James A, Jenkins C, Johns D, Maguire G, Musk A, Walters E, Wood-Baker R, Hunter M, Graham B, Southwell P, Vollmer W, Buist A, Marks G. Respiratory symptoms and illness in older Australians: The Burden of Obstructive Lung Disease (BOLD) study. *Med J Aust* 2013;198:144-148

^v Page A, Ambrose S, Glover J et al. Atlas of Avoidable Hospitalisations in Australia: ambulatory care-sensitive conditions. Adelaide PHIDU. University of Adelaide. 2007

^{vi} Jo HE, Glaspole I, Grainge C, et al. Baseline characteristics of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis: analysis from the Australian Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Registry. *Eur Respir J* 2017; 49: 1601592 [<https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.01592-2016>].

^{vii} Lung Foundation Australia, *Improving outcomes for Australians with lung cancer: A Call to Action* (2016) <http://lungfoundation.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/LFA-improving-outcomes-report-0816-proof10.pdf>

^{viii} Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2017. Cancer in Australia 2017. Cancer series no.101. Cat. no. CAN 100. Canberra: AIHW.

^{ix} Cancer Australia, *Cancer Research in Australia: an overview of funding to cancer research projects and research programs in Australia 2006 to 2011* (Sydney: Cancer Australia, 2014)