LUNG CANCER IN AUSTRALIA

Lung cancer is abnormal cells or a malignant tumour which grows in an uncontrolled way in one or both of the lungs.

THE STIGMA

Australian’s lack of empathy is confronting: Over a third (35%) consider those with lung cancer to be their “own worst enemy”

1 in 10 will say they got what they deserved.

CAUSES

Anyone can get lung cancer. The risk of getting lung cancer can be increased by:

- Tobacco smoking
- Occupational exposure such as asbestos, dust and chemicals
- Genetics
- Pollution such as chemical, radiation and radon exposure
- Occupational exposure contributes to 29% of lung cancers in men

DIAGNOSIS

Lung cancer is often diagnosed late because symptoms can be vague. There is also no routine screening in Australia for early detection.

Most likely, there will be a range of medical tests which need to be performed to confirm the type of lung cancer, the size of the tumour and whether it has spread outside of the lungs.

SYMPTOMS

Lung cancer symptoms can be vague and the disease is often found when it is in advanced stages. Symptoms include:

- Cough: new, persistent or changed
- Coughing up blood
- Breathlessness
- Chest pain
- Voice hoarseness
- Fatigue
- Weight loss

TREATMENT

There are treatments available that can help extend a patient’s life and improve their quality of life, including:

- Targeted therapies
- Immunotherapy
- Radiotherapy
- Chemotherapy
- Surgery

SUPPORT

For more information on the range of treatment options, resources and support services available to people living with lung cancer, please contact Lung Foundation Australia.

LUNG CANCER IS OUR BIGGEST CANCER KILLER;
more than breast, prostate and ovarian cancers combined:

25 people a day DIE from lung cancer.

12,500 Australians will be diagnosed with lung cancer in 2017. That’s 34 people a day.

Lung cancer has one of the lowest survival rates of any cancer in Australia;

15% of Australians are alive 5 years after their diagnosis.

Australians have the least sympathy (out of 15 nations surveyed) for people with lung cancer, because of its association with tobacco smoking.

90% of Australians believe smoking is the only lung cancer risk factor, despite other proven links including genetics, pollution and occupational exposure.

Occasionally diagnosed with lung cancer have no history of smoking.

Over a third (35%) will consider those with lung cancer to be their “own worst enemy”

1 in 10 will say they got what they deserved.

1 Lung Foundation Australia, Improving outcomes for Australians with lung cancer: A Call to Action (2016)
3 Lung Foundation Australia, PureProfie Consumer Survey, 2017
4 Ipsos MORI, Perceptions of Lung Cancer in Australia, 2011

IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY SYMPTOMS SPEAK TO YOUR DOCTOR.
FIND OUT MORE lungfoundation.com.au or phone 1800 654 301.