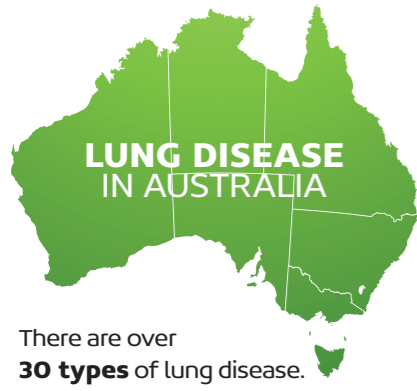


# The facts

Anyone can get lung disease. It affects men, women, children, smokers, ex-smokers and never smokers, all of whom are equally worthy of care and support. No one deserves lung disease.



**1 in 4 Australians** has a lung disease.<sup>1</sup>

**1 in 7 deaths** is a result of lung disease.<sup>2</sup>

**Lung disease accounts for 10%** of the total health burden in Australia.<sup>2</sup>

**Almost half** of all Australians rarely or never think about the health of their lungs.<sup>3</sup>

## Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

**1 in 7 Australians over 40** has COPD and many don't know it.<sup>4</sup>

**COPD is the second leading cause** of avoidable hospital admissions.<sup>5</sup>

## Lung cancer

**One Australian dies every hour** from lung cancer.<sup>7</sup>

**Lung cancer is Australia's biggest cancer killer.**

It kills more people than breast, prostate and ovarian cancers combined.<sup>10</sup>

**12,500** Australians were diagnosed with lung cancer in 2017. That's **34 people a day.**<sup>6</sup>

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

**15%** of Australians surviving **5 years** after their diagnosis.<sup>7</sup>

**1 in 3 women & 1 in 10 men** diagnosed with lung cancer have no history of smoking.<sup>7</sup>

## Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)

**IPF is a rare and progressive lung disease causing irreversible scarring of the lungs.**

Whilst it is not currently known exactly how many people are affected by IPF in Australia, experts estimate approximately **1,250 people are diagnosed** with this devastating disease **each year.**

## Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH)

**PAH diagnosis is delayed** on average **3.9 years.**<sup>9</sup>

On average it takes **5 GP visits** before a specialist referral is given.<sup>9</sup>

## Bronchiectasis

Bronchiectasis is a common lung disease caused by chronic infection damaging the lungs.

**Females and the elderly** are more frequently affected.<sup>10</sup>

## Rare lung disease in children

In Australia there is currently very limited, if any, information, support, treatment and research available for children diagnosed with a rare lung disease.

## Challenges in Australia

**The stigma surrounding lung disease is a major barrier to accessing research, funding, treatment and support.**

**1 in 6** Australians believe people with lung disease who have smoked deserve less support.<sup>11</sup>

**Over one third (35%)** of Australians consider those with lung cancer to be their **'own worst enemy'** and 1 in 10 will say they **'got what they deserved'**.<sup>11</sup>

**In a global survey conducted in 15 countries,** Australians were among the **top three nationalities that had the least sympathy** for people diagnosed with lung cancer, compared with other cancers, based on its association with tobacco smoking.<sup>7</sup>



## Understanding is rare, lung disease is not

"It's something that I was either born with, or grew into, or slowly developed over time. Lung disease has such a stigma attached to it that I think when I tell other people I have a lung disease, they probably assume that it is a recent thing and there is something I did in my lifetime that caused me to have a lung issue. I wish people would react to being presented with a person with a lung disease in a way that was open minded and understanding."

**Tegan is 28 years old and was diagnosed at the age of six with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension.**

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