



Oncology Social Work Australia (OSWA) today expressed concern regarding the \$400 million proposed cuts to the budget of the National Health Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Echoing reports by research and medical colleagues, OSWA Research Chair, Dr Kate Burns warned budget cuts could have substantial consequences for potentially important cancer research directly affecting family support.

“Research into the emotional, psychological and social aspects of cancer care will require a substantial increase in research efforts as the current cohort of baby boomers age” Dr Burns noted.

The reduction in the average family size has implications for the kind of care and support that the community currently offers to ill members.

Dr Burns said “Innovative research into new forms of health services that support medical care has already been provided by the NHMRC. In NSW recent grants examined patterns of cancer care for Indigenous people and used clinical and economic evidence to inform local decision making in cancer care. In WA researchers obtained grants to explore the critical points in the palliative care pathway in the last year of life”.

Dr Burns explained researchers are already reporting the predicted rise in the incidence of cancer as a consequence of our ageing population. She said "It is counter-intuitive to reduce national spending on health and medical research when these trends are already evident”.

(P) 02 4921 5946

Oncology Social Work Australia (OSWA)  
PO Box 347 Newtown NSW 2042  
catherine.burns@oswa.net.au