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QLD News

Cancer and its connection to postcodes to be researched

Jackie Sinnerton, The Courier-Mail

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POSTCODES can be a matter of life or death so Australian researchers are mapping the way to a cancer-free future.

Health experts will today launch an Australian-first research study to understand national patterns in cancer incidence, survival and screening practices based on where people live.

The Atlas of Cancer in Australia will, for the first time, allow health agencies, policy makers and the community to understand the location and resource requirements for the most common cancers that occur nationally.

The 18-month research project is a partnership between Cancer Council, Queensland University of Technology, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and Australia and New Zealand Co-operative Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRCSI).

Cancer Council Queensland's Chris McMillan said the Atlas of Cancer in Australia was based on the success of the CCQ Atlas of Cancer in Queensland, released in 2011.

The new project will bring greater confidence in the final estimates of the geological spread of the cancer burden due to a more developed statistical model.

“This groundbreaking project will build on years of earlier work by CCQ to better understand the cancer divide between metropolitan and rural areas, as well as mapping the gaps linked to socio-economic status and other demographic factors,” Ms McMillan said.

Every year, more than 120,000 Australians are diagnosed with cancer but some face greater risks of death than others.

Three Queenslanders are diagnosed with a form of cancer every hour and 8700 will die each year.

“Through the CRCSI health program, new technology and methodology have been developed for the Australian public health sector by bringing together experts in spatial health research, health agencies and clinicians,” CRCSI's Dr Peter Woodgate said.

Prostate cancer remains the most common cancer diagnosed in Queensland, followed by melanoma, breast and bowel cancer.



 Cancer Council Queensland's Chris McMillan.