



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT BOOSTS FUNDING FOR GRASSROOTS CANCER INITIATIVES

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today announced funding of almost \$800,000 into localised cancer prevention and early detection programs, which will reduce the impact of the disease across communities in NSW.

Mrs Skinner said the Evidence to Practice Grants Program, coordinated by the Cancer Institute NSW, will give health and community organisations resources to implement vital programs to focus on groups at a higher-risk of cancer.

“Communities, particularly those with higher smoking rates, low uptake of cancer screening services and those at a higher risk of deadly skin cancers, will benefit greatly from these grants,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Many cancers diagnosed are preventable and for cancers such as breast and bowel, the earlier they are detected, the better the outcomes. These programs will see local health professionals and community organisations work together to take positive action in their communities to reduce the burden of cancer.

“A project in the State’s Far West will target smoking among pregnant women in both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities. The program will engage women before pregnancy, during antenatal and postnatal visits, during childbirth, and for ongoing follow-up and Child and Family Health Clinics and GP practices.

“Also targeting smoking rates is a project for the Arabic-speaking community in Sydney’s St George area and a program targeting lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women, both communities with higher than average smoking rates.

“Women of Sri-Lankan and Indian backgrounds will be engaged in a project to increase participation in breast screening in these communities, where participation rates are currently among the lowest in the state.

“In the Illawarra Shoalhaven region, a program will seek to improve the effectiveness of colonoscopies following a positive bowel screening test.

“I’m incredibly proud this funding is being invested in strategies which will have life-changing and potentially life-saving benefits for local communities,” Mrs Skinner said.

Chief Cancer Officer and CEO of the Cancer Institute NSW Professor David Currow said that these grants are vital in targeting hard to reach communities where we can make big improvements in cancer outcomes.

“While cancer is an issue that affects us all, we know that there are certain communities that are harder to reach with important health messages and cancer prevention initiatives.

“These grants allow groups to be engaged in a way that will allow us to make real change, whether that be providing shade at locations where children and young people are exposed to the sun, or offering one-on-one support to pregnant mothers to quit smoking.”