



### About us

The Leukaemia Foundation is the only national not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the care and cure of patients and families living with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and related blood disorders.

We invest millions of dollars in the work of Australia's leading researchers to develop better treatments and cures and provide free services to support patients and their families.

We receive no ongoing government funding. We rely on the generosity of the community and corporate sector to further our Vision to Cure and Mission to Care.

### We can help you

Our range of free services supports thousands of Australians, from diagnosis, through treatment and beyond. To learn more, please call 1800 620 420 to speak with one of our Support Services team.

### You can help us

There are many ways that you can help us to improve the quality of life for people with blood cancer. From making a donation, to signing up for an event; from volunteering, or joining us as a corporate sponsor - please call 1800 500 088 or go to [www.leukaemia.org.au](http://www.leukaemia.org.au) to learn more.

Last updated: Aug 2011

**More than 5000\* Australians are expected to be diagnosed with a form of lymphoma this year - equivalent to 13 people every day.**

**Lymphoma is a general term that includes 43 different sub-types of the disease that are divided into two main types: Hodgkin Lymphoma and non-Hodgkin lymphomas. Lymphomas are the most common form of blood cancer in Australia, and of these, almost 90% will be non-Hodgkin lymphoma.**

#### How do lymphomas affect the body?

Lymphomas are a cancer of white blood cells that are produced by the bone marrow and matured in the lymphatic system. The cancer may originate in the lymph glands or organs such as the liver, spleen or bone marrow.

#### Who do lymphomas commonly affect?

Lymphomas are seen in all age groups but are most common in people aged 50+. Lymphoma is the third most common cancer in children aged under 14 years. The peak age for diagnosis of Hodgkin Lymphoma is between 15 and 30 years.

#### Do we know what causes lymphomas?

Most possible causes of lymphomas are unknown, but indicators point to western lifestyle factors, severe immunodeficiency, some viruses such as the Epstein-Barr Virus and rare infections leading to chronic inflammation are also established risks.

#### How are lymphomas treated?

The treatment plan for a person diagnosed with lymphoma will depend on the type of the disease, the stage of the disease at diagnosis and how fast it is likely to grow. The plan will also depend on the person's age and general health. The best outcome also depends on timely and accurate diagnosis and the relevant course of action based on these findings.

This treatment can involve chemotherapy, biological therapies and radiotherapy. In some instances, a stem cell transplant is required. On average, the treatment of lymphomas lasts for a few months, but it can continue over several years.

Survival rates for people diagnosed with lymphoma are increasing. Five years after diagnosis, about 62% of people will have survived non-Hodgkin lymphoma and over 85% will have survived Hodgkin lymphoma (HL).

**The Leukaemia Foundation publishes the guides 'Understanding Leukaemias, Lymphomas, Myeloma and Related Blood Disorders' and 'Living with Leukaemias, Lymphomas, Myeloma and Related Disorders: Information and Support'.**

\*Projections sourced from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). Estimates are calculated using actual diagnoses data collected from 2007 and annually prior to this year.

For more information, freecall 1800 620 420  
email [info@leukaemia.org.au](mailto:info@leukaemia.org.au) or visit [www.leukaemia.org.au](http://www.leukaemia.org.au)