

Don't cut funding – Don't risk lives – Don't lose knowledge...

“Government cuts to cancer research means young researchers struggling for funding may look to go overseas or even leave the sector altogether...it would be a great crime,” so says Leanne Warner, CEO Cure Cancer Australia Foundation.

Ms Warner's comments have come from suggestions the Federal Government will cut \$400 million from all areas of medical research, including cancer.

“As people get older the risk of cancer increases...as our population ages, the burden of cancer on our health system increases...governments need to acknowledge that money spent now saves lives and will save money in the future.

“Australia is a leader in cancer research, we have researchers who are pre-eminent in their field, and every year Cure Cancer supports new minds with new ideas who go on to add to the growing knowledge of cancer that will eventually lead to a cure...and all this will be jeopardised, even lost, sending cancer research in Australia backwards if the Federal Government goes ahead with their cuts”.

Since 1967 Cure Cancer Australia has, and continues to, specialise in funding early-career researchers, helping to nurture their innovative vision.

“Cure Cancer is a charity relying on the generosity of donors,” explains Ms Warner. “...our funds are limited, therefore, researchers also rely on government, through the National Health Medical Research Council (NHMRC), to assist with helping them meet their goals”.

Without the government's support, Ms Warner's concern is Cure Cancer's funding won't be enough to keep young researchers in Australia, or motivate them to continue with cancer as a career.

Ms Warner and members of her staff will be marching this afternoon in the national rally to protest against the government cut backs.

“We’re a small charity doing a big job...we give Australian scientists the critical support they need early in their careers...it is essential to kick start research projects that could lead to a cure.

“Without adequate funding, cancer research in Australia is at great risk.”

For more information and to arrange interviews contact:

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Cure Cancer Australia is focused on finding a cure for all types of cancer and has channelled close to \$15 million to 400 extraordinary young Australian research scientists, giving them critical support early in their careers. Find out more at: www.curecancer.org.au