

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Addressing gender equity in cancer care

A new project to drive more gender equitable cancer care in Victoria is underway, with leading statewide partners joining forces.

The Victorian Government has provided Women's Health Victoria (WHV) with \$300,000 in funding to lead the Gender Equity in Cancer Care project.

The research project will look at the gendered impacts of cancer care and further inform the implementation of the Victorian Government's *Cancer Plan 2024-28*.

WHV Chief Executive Officer Sally Hasler said the nation-leading project would improve healthcare in Victoria by understanding how women, trans and gender diverse people experience cancer care.

"Cancer will touch almost every Australian at some point—whether through a personal diagnosis or that of a loved one. But when we talk about gender in cancer care, we often define that experience by the type of cancer someone has, without recognising how gender inequality shapes that entire experience," Ms Hasler said.

"This new project brings together leaders from across the healthcare system and is guided by an advisory group to centre lived experience. With more than two decades of experience delivering peer support to women with cancer, WHV knows that lived experience must be at the heart of system change."

Victorian Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas said the project aims to make sure that everyone experiences the best possible care when dealing with cancer.

"No matter where you live or who you are, if you're dealing with cancer – you deserve access to the very best care."

"We know that women and gender diverse people often face barriers when interacting with the health system – we want to make sure that everyone can access safe, appropriate care, close to home."

Major project partners include the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, the Royal Women's Hospital, Transgender Victoria, and the Barwon South West and Gippsland Regional Integrated Cancer Services.

WHV is also working alongside regional women's health services in Gippsland, Barwon South West and Loddon Mallee.

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The Gender Equity in Cancer Care project aims to build the evidence base, centring lived and living experience (LLE), to address key gaps; and to build the knowledge and capacity of the cancer sector to provide intersectional, gender-responsive cancer care. The report is expected to be released in mid-2026.

For more information about the work of WHV, please visit [whv.org.au](http://whv.org.au)

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**About Women's Health Victoria**

Women's Health Victoria is a statewide, feminist, non-profit organisation working with government, the health sector, and the community to improve health outcomes for women (cis and trans inclusive) and gender diverse people. We advocate for healthcare rights and access, deliver health promotion resources, and operate vital information and support services, so that all Victorians have the opportunity to access optimal health and wellbeing, free from bias and discrimination.

**For more information, visit [whv.org.au](http://whv.org.au)**