



BRAIN TUMOURS

- ✦ A brain tumour can be benign (not cancer) or malignant (cancer). It can also be a primary tumour, arising in the brain itself, or a secondary tumour, spread from another part of the body.
- ✦ In benign brain tumours, if the tumour can be removed successfully it should not cause any further problems. However, a small proportion regrow slowly and these recurrences can usually be removed, when necessary, by a further operation.

Queensland¹

- ✦ 341 Queenslanders were diagnosed with brain cancer in 2014 (the most recent figures available).
- ✦ 283 Queenslanders died from brain cancer in 2014.
- ✦ On average, people diagnosed with brain cancer were 25 per cent as likely to live for another five years compared to the general population.

Detection and symptoms

- ✦ The effects of a brain tumour are varied and usually depend on the type of tumour, the size and its location in the brain.
- ✦ Tumours may cause:
 - Direct pressure which affects brain cells;
 - Shifting of the brain due to the tumour growth; or
 - Pressure which affects brain areas distant from the tumour, causing changes in their function.
- ✦ Several generalised symptoms could be experienced which may include:
 - Lack of appetite.
 - Depression.
 - Irritability.
 - Fatigue.
 - Sleeplessness.
 - Sexual difficulties.
 - Erratic memory.
 - Restlessness.
 - Nausea.
 - Bladder problems or constipation.

Information and Support

Cancer Council 13 11 20

Being diagnosed with cancer or supporting a family member or friend can leave you with many questions. By calling 13 11 20 you can speak with a Cancer Support Coordinator, who can provide you with cancer information, emotional and practical support.

¹ Queensland Cancer Statistics On-Line, 2017. Viertel Cancer Research Centre, Cancer Council Queensland (<https://qcsol.cancerqld.org.au/>). Based on data released by the Queensland Cancer Registry (1982-2014; released January 2017)



Brain Tumour Support Service

The service provides resources, referrals, information sessions with health professionals, and the opportunity to meet others affected.

Cancer Connect

Sometimes it helps to talk to someone who has been there and knows what you are going through. Cancer Connect is free and confidential peer support that connects you, your carer, or loved ones over the telephone with a trained volunteer who has had a similar cancer experience. This support is available at diagnosis, during and after treatment.

Cancer Counselling Service

Cancer can at times leave you feeling stressed and overwhelmed. Talking things through with a counsellor can make a difference.

Our Cancer Counselling Service is for all Queenslanders distressed by cancer at any stage including people diagnosed with cancer, their family and friends. This appointment based service is staffed by nurse counsellors and registered psychologists, all with training and experience in helping people affected by cancer

For further information and support, please call Cancer Council 13 11 20.

Disclaimer: The information in this publication should not be used as a substitute for advice from a properly qualified medical professional who can advise you about your own individual medical needs. It is not intended to constitute medical advice and is provided for general information purposes only. Information on cancer, including the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cancer, is constantly being updated and revised by medical professionals and the research community.

Cancer Council Queensland does not warrant that the information in this publication is correct, up to date or complete nor that it is suitable for any particular purpose. Your use of the information in this publication is at your own risk. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Cancer Council Queensland does not accept any liability for any reliance placed on information that is not correct, complete or up to date, or that is not suited to the purpose for which it was relied upon. If any warranty or guarantee cannot by law be excluded, then, to the extent permitted by law, Cancer Council Queensland's liability for such warranty or guarantee is limited, at Cancer Council Queensland's option, to supplying the information or materials again or paying the cost of having the information or materials supplied again.