

Cancer in Far North Queensland

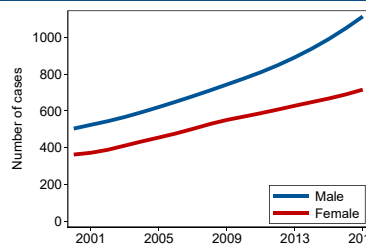
The CCQ region of Far North Queensland covers nearly a quarter of Queensland (22% or 387,000 km²), including the most northern and north-west areas of the state. In 2017 it had a population of 288,858, which was 5.9% of Queensland's total population.

The major population centres are Cairns, Innisfail and Tully, while Cooktown and Weipa are important tourist and industrial centres in the region. The majority of Queensland's discrete Indigenous communities, for example Bamaga, are located in Far North Queensland.

The nearest radiation treatment centre for cancer patients in Far North Queensland is Cairns. There is also a radiotherapy facility located in Townsville.



Region Characteristics (2017 data unless otherwise specified)	Far North Queensland	Queensland
Per cent of population who ...		
... are female	49.9%	50.4%
... are aged 50 years and over	24.5%	22.8%
... are Indigenous (2016)	18.3%	4.6%
... speak another language at home	14.8%	12.1%
... live in remote areas	11.4%	2.1%
... live within 2 hours drive of radiation treatment	84.5%	89.3%
... live more than 6 hours drive from radiation treatment	11.1%	1.9%
... live in disadvantaged areas	30.1%	18.1%
... live in affluent areas	8.0%	18.7%

All Cancers* Far North Queensland	Male	Female	Persons ¹	Number diagnosed by year
Number of new cases per year:	989	662	1651	
Chance of diagnosis by age 80: ²	1 in 2.0	1 in 2.8	1 in 2.3	
Median age at diagnosis:	67 yrs	64 yrs	66 yrs	
Five-year relative survival:	66%	72%	69%	
Number of deaths per year:	325	202	528	
Percent deaths before age 80:	74%	72%	73%	

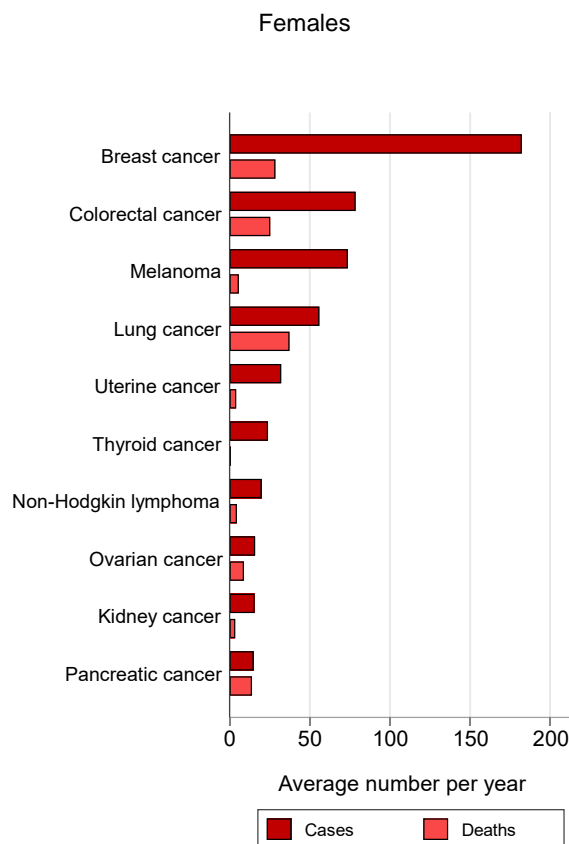
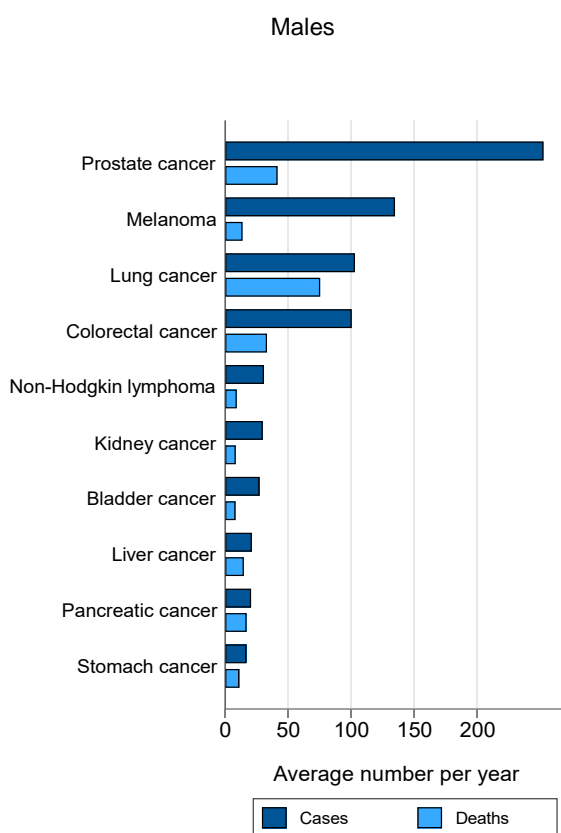
*See notes on page 4 for more details

- Persons data may not equal the sum of males and females due to rounding.
- Cancers with a lifetime risk above 1 in 5 have the value provided to one decimal point.

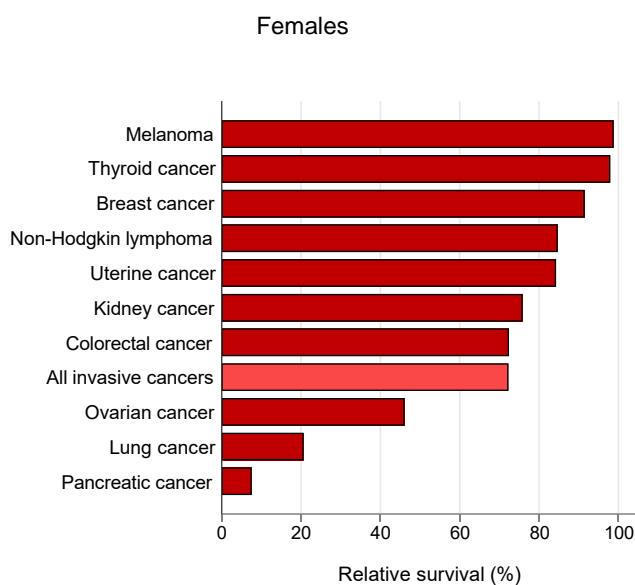
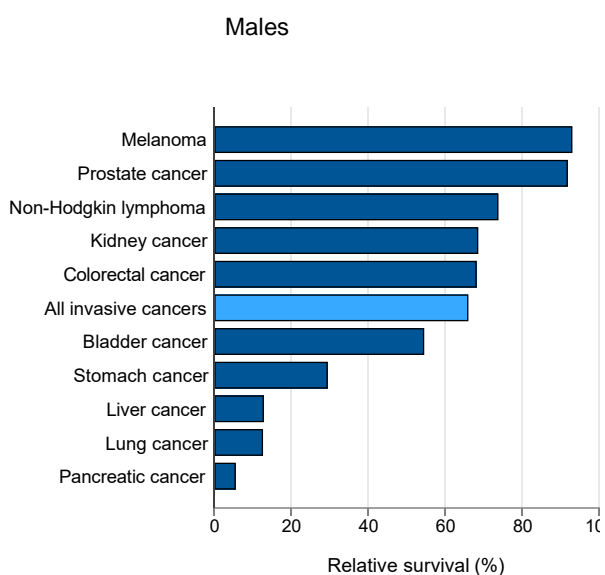
Every minute, Every hour, Every day.

Please contact **13 1120** if you have any queries related to cancer in Far North Queensland.

The 10 most common cancers diagnosed in Far North Queensland by sex, 2013-2017



Five-year relative survival in Far North Queensland by type of cancer and sex, 2013-2017



Note: Relative survival calculated using the period method, for persons aged 0-89 years at diagnosis. Data are for "at risk" cases in the period 2013-2017.

**Every minute,
Every hour,
Every day.**

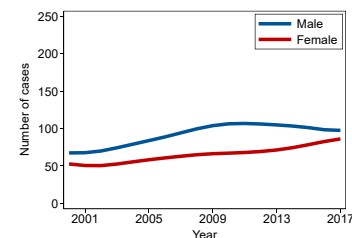
Call Cancer Council Queensland's **13 11 20** Information and Support line for cancer information or emotional and practical support. This confidential service is for all Queenslanders affected by cancer and is available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Facts about the most common cancers in Far North Queensland

Colorectal Cancer



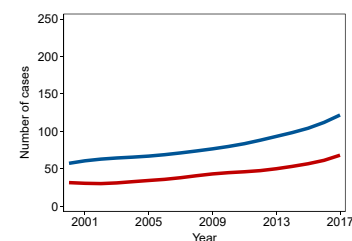
	Male	Female	Persons ¹
Number of new cases per year:	100	79	179
Chance of diagnosis by age 80:	1 in 16	1 in 20	1 in 18
Median age at diagnosis:	69 yrs	70 yrs	70 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	68%	72%	70%
Number of deaths per year:	33	25	59
Percent deaths before age 80:	68%	54%	62%



Lung Cancer



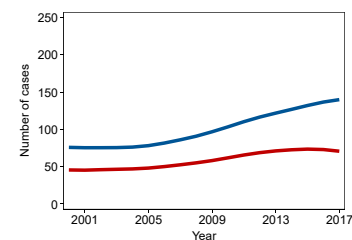
	Male	Female	Persons ¹
Number of new cases per year:	103	56	159
Chance of diagnosis by age 80:	1 in 14	1 in 25	1 in 18
Median age at diagnosis:	68 yrs	68 yrs	68 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	13%	21%	15%
Number of deaths per year:	75	37	113
Percent deaths before age 80:	80%	83%	81%



Melanoma



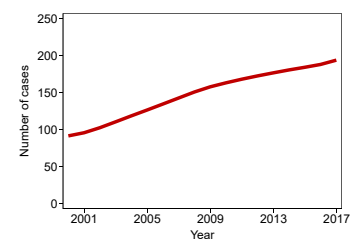
	Male	Female	Persons ¹
Number of new cases per year:	135	74	209
Chance of diagnosis by age 85:	1 in 12	1 in 21	1 in 15
Median age at diagnosis:	65 yrs	60 yrs	64 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	93%	99%	95%
Number of deaths per year:	14	6	20
Percent deaths before age 80:	72%	83%	76%



Female Breast Cancer



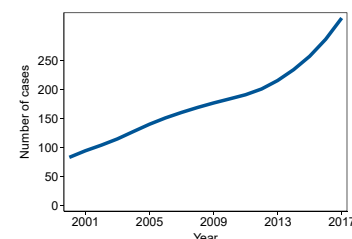
	Female
Number of new cases per year:	182
Chance of diagnosis by age 80:	1 in 9
Median age at diagnosis:	61 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	91%
Number of deaths per year:	29
Percent deaths before age 80:	81%



Prostate Cancer



	Male
Number of new cases per year:	253
Chance of diagnosis by age 80:	1 in 6
Median age at diagnosis:	68 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	92%
Number of deaths per year:	42
Percent deaths before age 80:	55%



See notes on page 4 for more details. Cancers with a lifetime risk above 1 in 5 have the value provided to one decimal point.

1. Persons data may not equal the sum of males and females due to rounding.

**Every minute,
Every hour,
Every day.**

Call Cancer Council Queensland's **13 11 20** Information and Support line for cancer information or emotional and practical support. This confidential service is for all Queenslanders affected by cancer and is available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

More details on the top 10 cancers diagnosed in Far North Queensland

Type of cancer	Incidence ^a		Five-year relative survival ^c (%)	Mortality ^a	
	Average number per year	Annual rate ^b (per 100,000)		Average number per year	Annual rate ^b (per 100,000)
Males					
All invasive cancers	989	644 [626,663]	66 [64,68]	325	228 [216,239]
Prostate cancer	253	155 [146,164]	92 [89,94]	42	32 [27,36]
Melanoma	135	89 [82,96]	93 [89,96]	14	10 [8,12]
Lung cancer	103	66 [61,73]	13 [9,16]	75	50 [45,56]
Colorectal cancer	100	68 [62,74]	68 [63,73]	33	24 [21,28]
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	31	21 [17,24]	74 [64,82]	9	7 [5,9]
Kidney cancer	30	20 [16,23]	69 [58,77]	8	6 [4,8]
Bladder cancer	27	19 [16,22]	55 [43,66]	8	6 [5,9]
Liver cancer	21	13 [11,16]	13 [6,22]	15	9 [7,12]
Pancreatic cancer	21	14 [11,17]	5 [2,13]	17	12 [9,14]
Stomach cancer	17	11 [9,14]	29 [18,42]	11	7 [6,10]
Females					
All invasive cancers	662	440 [425,456]	72 [70,74]	202	137 [129,146]
Breast cancer	182	119 [111,127]	91 [89,94]	29	19 [16,22]
Colorectal cancer	79	54 [48,59]	72 [66,78]	25	17 [15,21]
Melanoma	74	50 [45,55]	99 [95,101]	6	4 [3,6]
Lung cancer	56	37 [33,42]	21 [15,27]	37	25 [22,29]
Uterine cancer	32	20 [17,24]	84 [77,90]	**	**
Thyroid cancer	24	16 [14,20]	98 [91,101]	**	**
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	20	13 [11,16]	85 [74,92]	**	**
Ovarian cancer	16	11 [8,13]	46 [34,57]	9	6 [4,8]
Kidney cancer	16	10 [8,13]	76 [62,86]	**	**
Pancreatic cancer	15	11 [8,13]	7 [3,16]	14	10 [8,13]
Persons					
All invasive cancers	1651	544 [532,556]	69 [67,70]	528	181 [174,188]
Prostate cancer	253	n.a.	92 [89,94]	42	n.a.
Melanoma	209	69 [65,73]	95 [93,97]	20	7 [6,8]
Female breast cancer	182	n.a.	91 [89,94]	29	n.a.
Colorectal cancer	179	61 [57,65]	70 [66,73]	59	21 [19,24]
Lung cancer	159	52 [48,56]	15 [12,18]	113	38 [34,41]
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	51	17 [15,19]	78 [71,84]	**	**
Kidney cancer	45	15 [13,17]	71 [63,78]	**	**
Thyroid cancer	36	12 [11,14]	97 [91,100]	**	**
Pancreatic cancer	36	12 [10,14]	7 [3,11]	31	11 [9,13]
Bladder cancer	33	11 [10,13]	53 [43,63]	11	4 [3,5]

Notes:

- Incidence and mortality data are averaged over the 5 year period from 2013-2017.
- Incidence and mortality rates have been directly age-standardised to the 2001 Australian Standard population, with 95% confidence intervals shown in brackets.
- Five-year relative survival calculated using the period method, for persons aged 0-89 years at diagnosis, with 95% confidence intervals shown in brackets. Estimates are for "at risk" cases in the period 2013-2017
- Persons data may not equal the sum of males and females due to rounding.

Symbols:

** Incidence or mortality counts that averaged less than five per year (and the corresponding rates) have been suppressed to protect confidentiality. Counts and rates for persons have also been suppressed when necessary.

n.a. = not applicable (rates for persons not applicable for sex-specific cancers).

**Every minute,
Every hour,
Every day.**

Call Cancer Council Queensland's **13 11 20** Information and Support line for cancer information or emotional and practical support. This confidential service is for all Queenslanders affected by cancer and is available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Methodology

1. All cancer data are sourced from the Queensland Cancer Register. The access and use of these data for reporting purposes is subject to strict confidentiality and privacy constraints.
2. Census and population data were obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
3. Population death data used in relative survival calculations were obtained from the Australian Coordinating Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
4. All calculations were performed using Stata v16.1.
5. Trend lines for incidence numbers have been smoothed using the 'Lowess' method.
6. Remote areas are defined by the Remoteness Areas 2016 classification (combines Remote and Very Remote).
7. Travelling times to radiation treatment are calculated using spatial and road network software, and are approximate based on the shortest road distances at the recommended speed limits.
8. 'Affluent areas' are the 20% of most advantaged Statistical Areas 2 (SA2s) and 'Disadvantaged areas' are the 20% of most disadvantaged SA2s as defined by the 2016 SEIFA Index of Advantage and Disadvantage obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
9. Relative survival compares overall survival among those diagnosed with cancer to the expected survival of the general population, taking into account age, sex and year of diagnosis.

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.

**Every minute,
Every hour,
Every day.**

Call Cancer Council Queensland's **13 11 20** Information and Support line for cancer information or emotional and practical support. This confidential service is for all Queenslanders affected by cancer and is available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.