

MEDIA RELEASE

ANZCHOG AWARDED FUNDING FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BRAIN CANCER MISSION

Australian and New Zealand Children's Haematology/Oncology Group (ANZCHOG) has been awarded \$2.5 million from the Australian Brain Cancer Mission to accelerate access to the latest international clinical trials for Australian children and adolescents diagnosed with brain cancer.

"More Australian children die of brain cancer than any other disease. Despite our best efforts, we have been unable to significantly improve the survival for many types of brain cancers," said Associate Professor Nick Gottardo, Chair of ANZCHOG's Central Nervous System (CNS) Tumours Group and Head of Oncology at Perth Children Hospital. "Due to the small number of children diagnosed with each type of brain cancer, participating in international clinical trials is essential for us to access the latest cutting-edge treatment options and providing our children with the best chance of beating their disease."

The Australian Brain Cancer Mission – coordinated by Cancer Australia - aims to double survival rate and improve the quality of life of people living with brain cancer over the next 10 years, with the longer term aim of defeating brain cancer. The Australian Government, philanthropy, charity and State Governments have contributed funding to the Australian Brain Cancer Mission.

"The funding provided to ANZCHOG will enhance activities in a number of critical areas. It will enable Australian paediatric neuro-oncologists to strengthen and build our connections with international trials groups, bringing new trial opportunities to Australia. The funding will then support centralised trials infrastructure within ANZCHOG to streamline and coordinate the start-up and conduct of the trials nationally, and provide assistance to hospitals to offset the cost of participating in paediatric brain cancer trials," explained Associate Professor Gottardo. "The opportunity to implement a national strategy for brain cancer trials, with guaranteed funding for five years, is a game changer. Our children deserve this investment."

The national clinical trials group for adult brain cancer, Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology (COGNO), also received funding and will work with ANZCHOG to maximise trial opportunities for all Australians diagnosed with brain cancer.

For more information about the Australian Brain Cancer Mission, see <https://canceraustralia.gov.au>.

For more information about the Australian Brain Cancer Mission funding, please contact ANZCHOG (info@anzchog.org).

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