

The Familial Cancer Registry

The Registry is a service for people and families at increased risk of developing cancer.

The Registry provides the following services:

- up-to-date screening recommendations
- an optional reminder service for when your screening is due
- newsletters with updates on research and information about inherited cancer.

Outreach services

As well as our metropolitan clinics (KEMH, Rockingham, Joondalup), we also hold regional outreach clinics in:

- Albany
- Bunbury
- Geraldton
- Kalgoorlie
- Karratha
- Port Hedland



Our contact details

Genetic Services of Western Australia Familial Cancer Program

Agnes Walsh House, Level 3
King Edward Memorial Hospital
374 Bagot Road, Subiaco WA 6008

Tel: (08) 6458 1603
Fax: (08) 6458 1725
Email: fcp@health.wa.gov.au
Website: www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/services/genetics/index.htm



This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

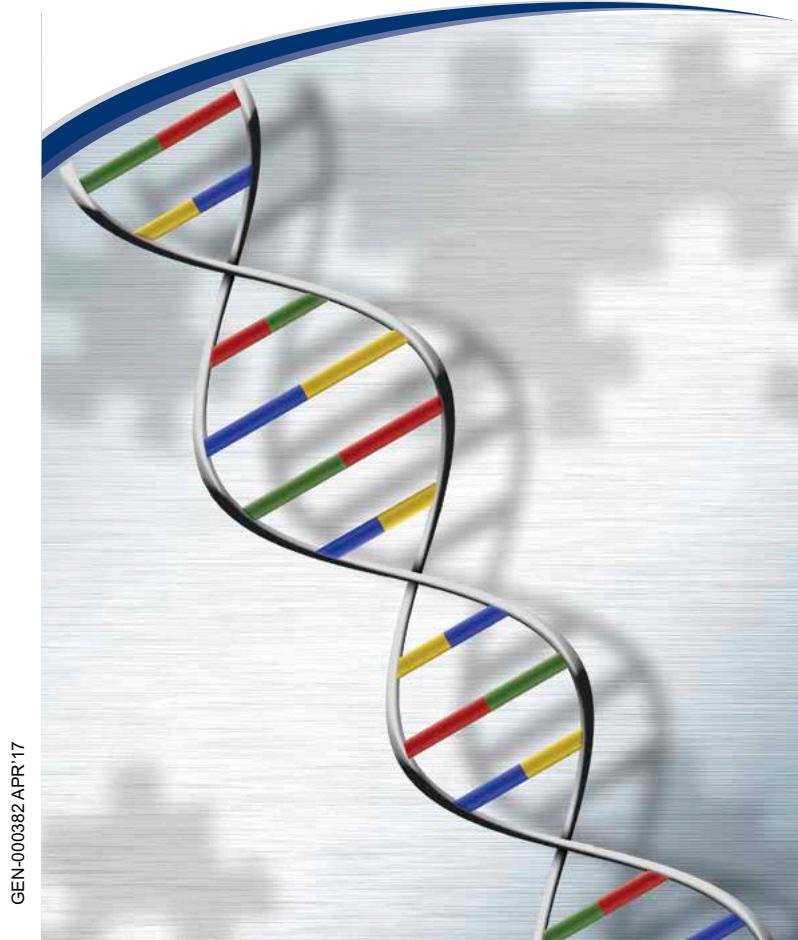
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Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

Familial Cancer Program



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Our service

The Familial Cancer Program offers a range of services by telephone, videoconference and face-to-face clinic appointments to people with a personal and/or family history of cancer. We can:

- provide you with information about inherited cancers
- assess your risk of developing an inherited cancer based on your medical and family history
- assess whether genetic testing may be an option for your family
- recommend screening and risk management options
- discuss lifestyle strategies to foster good health and reduce your risk of developing cancer
- answer questions and address any concerns you may have
- provide support and short-term counselling
- support familial cancer research.

About us

We are a team of health professionals who can provide advice about your familial cancer risk, and ways to manage that risk. Our team includes genetic counsellors and geneticists. We provide information and support to people and families who have concerns about familial cancer. We arrange genetic testing for those who are interested and eligible to have testing through our service.

Cancer risk

Most cancers occur by chance as we get older. One in every three people will have some form of cancer during their lifetime.

As cancer is common, a number of people in the same family may have cancer by chance alone.

Only a small number of cancers (approximately one in 20, or 5%) are caused by a gene fault that may be inherited and passed down through the family.

Familial cancer

You, and members of your family, may be at increased risk of cancer due to a hereditary predisposition if you have:

- relatives with cancer at a young age (less than 50 years old)
- relatives with more than one separate primary cancer (not a recurrence of the same cancer)
- several relatives on the same side of the family who develop cancer
- a relative who has been found to carry a genetic fault that predisposes to cancer.

Genetic testing

Genetic testing is only possible in some families. Genetic testing in a family must start with a relative who has had cancer.

It is not always possible to detect a gene fault in the family. If a gene fault is found, testing can then be offered to family members who have not had cancer, in order to clarify their risks.

Genetic counselling is required before and after testing. It is an opportunity for you to ask questions and discuss any concerns you may have.

Making a referral

Your GP or specialist can refer you to the Familial Cancer Program at Genetic Services of WA (GSWA). A referral form is available on our website – see our contact details.

Before your appointment

To accurately assess your family, it is important to gather as much information as possible about the family history of cancer.

- Once we receive a referral we will send you some forms to help you collect your family history details. We may also send you consent forms that allow us to access records confirming the diagnosis of cancer in other family members.
- Copies of medical reports, doctors' letters and/or death certificates for family members who have had cancer are very helpful to us.
- We will then contact you via telephone or letter. A clinic appointment may be arranged, and you will be advised of the details.

Your appointment

If you are offered an appointment, you will be notified of the details by phone or letter. Appointments may take up to one hour, and you may need more than one appointment. You can bring your partner or another support person with you. There is no charge for these services if you have a Medicare card.