

The implementation of a service model change for lung cancer pathway in Central Australia improves referral and treatment interval time

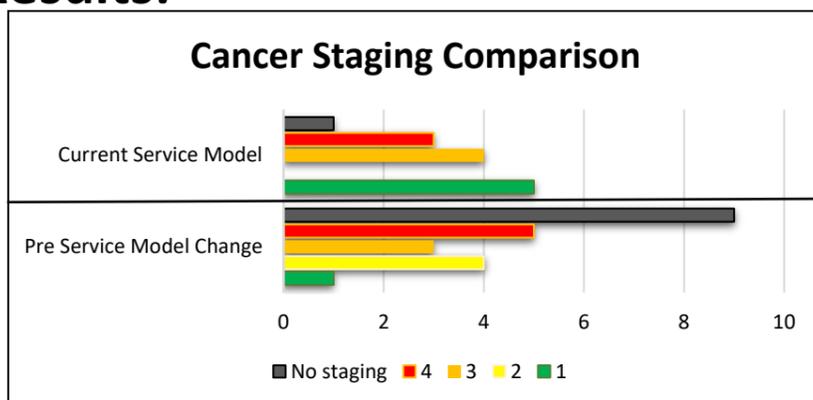
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This study aims to evaluate the impact of a service model change in the Alice Springs Hospital Respiratory Service in reducing the time from referral to treatment for lung cancer patients in Central Australia. The changes implemented include:

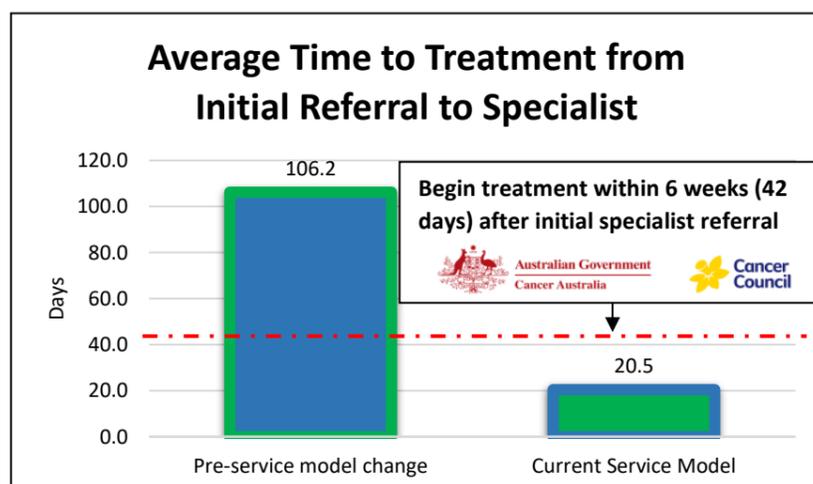
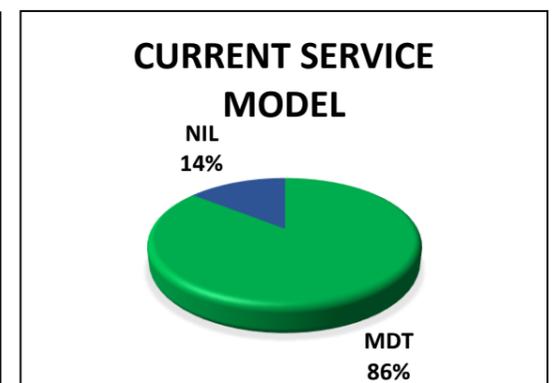
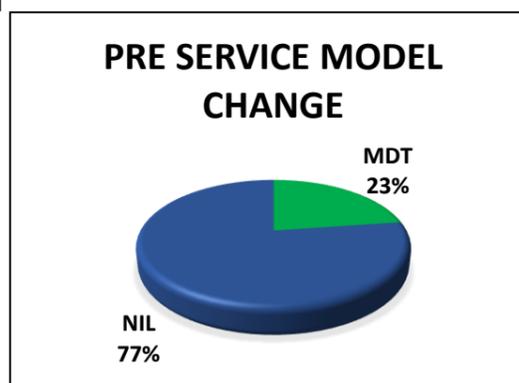
- Onsite Respiratory Specialist
- Increased access to onsite bronchoscopy
- Greater collaboration with the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) at Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH)
- Appointment of Lung Cancer Nurse Specialist in RAH

Results:



- More patients being captured at early cancer stage
- Definitive staging of cancer vs. no staging
- Increase in survival rate

- Access to MDT meeting proceedings enhances the efficiency of treatment coordination, follow-up, and monitoring



- Improved treatment initiation after referral to a specialist
- Improved patient outcomes and prognosis
- Increased patient satisfaction in journey through cancer care pathway

Reference:

Cancer Council Victoria and Department of Health Victoria, 2021. *Optimal care pathway for people with lung cancer*, 2nd edn, Cancer Council Victoria, Melbourne. <https://www.cancer.org.au/assets/pdf/lung-cancer-optimal-cancer-care-pathway>