

## What is the Familial Cancer Registry?

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

The Registry provides the following services:

- Up-to-date information on surveillance and inherited cancer.
- Registry staff will liaise with clinicians to monitor the outcome of surveillance.
- If requested, a reminder service for when surveillance appointments are due.
- A regular newsletter which includes updates on research and information about inherited cancer.

## Outreach Services

We provide genetic consultations at our metropolitan and regional outreach clinics held at:

Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, Joondalup, Kalgoorlie, Port Hedland and Rockingham.

Please contact the Familial Cancer Program for referral to the outreach services.

## Who should I contact for more information?

Genetic Services of Western Australia  
Familial Cancer Program  
King Edward Memorial Hospital  
374 Bagot Road, SUBIACO WA 6008  
Telephone: (08) 9340 1603  
Facsimile: (08) 9340 1725

## Cancer Council Helpline

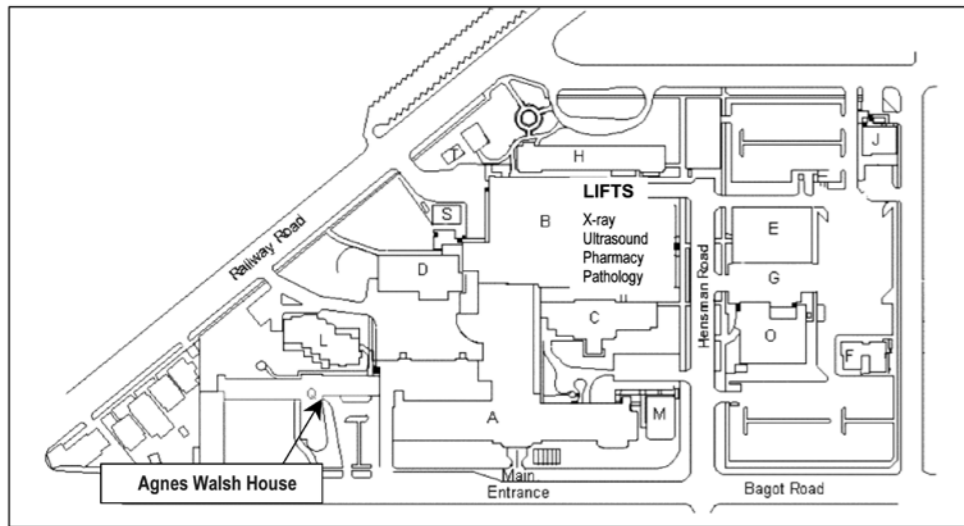
For non-familial or other cancer-related enquiries please telephone the Cancer Helpline on 13 11 20.

## Are interpreters available?

Yes, please contact us before your appointment if English is not your first language and you wish us to arrange an interpreter.

# Familial Cancer Program

## Genetic Services of WA



A	A Block
B	B Block
C	Centenary House
D	Carson House
E	Physical Resources Department
F	F Block
G	Visitors Parking
H	Harvey House
J	J Block
L	Family Birth Centre
M	Creche
O	O Block
P	Pathology Building
Q	Agnes Walsh House
S	S Block
T	T Block

Note: Agnes Walsh House is the building next door to the main KEMH building, heading towards Railway Road. Turn left after entering the front door and then turn left again to enter the lift.

This document can be made available in alternative formats such as computer disc, audiotope or Braille, on request from a person with a disability.



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## The Familial Cancer Program at Genetic Services of WA (GSWA)

### What is Familial Cancer?

One person out of every three will have some form of cancer during their lifetime. As cancer is such a common disease, several members of a family may develop cancer purely by chance. In most cases, cancer is not passed down through families.

For a small number of families (less than one in 20) several people in the same family will have related cancers because they have inherited an altered (changed) gene that increases their risk of developing inherited breast, ovarian, bowel and other cancer syndromes. This tendency, or predisposition, may be inherited (passed down) through families.

### How can we help you?

We offer a range of services to people concerned about their risk of developing cancer because they have a family history of cancer. These services include:

- genetic counselling;
- genetic testing;
- discussion of surveillance and risk management options;
- support; and
- our cancer registry can provide a reminder service about the timing of tests(optional).

We also support research in familial cancer and provide the opportunity to participate in research.

There is no charge for these services if you have a Medicare card and all information is treated confidentially.

### Risk Assessment and Surveillance

You may be at an increased risk of developing an inherited cancer if you have:

- a relative with cancer at a young age (less than 50 years old);
- a relative with more than one primary cancer (not a recurrence of the same cancer);
- several relatives on the same side of the family who develop the same type of cancer (eg: breast, bowel, ovarian); and
- A relative who has been found to have an altered cancer susceptibility gene.

Regular surveillance may be appropriate based on your family history.

### What is a Genetic Consultation?

A genetic consultation is a confidential appointment, which will:

- 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 is possible;
- recommend surveillance and risk management options; and
- provide information on early detection and lifestyle strategies to foster good health and to reduce your risk of developing cancer.

### How do I make an appointment?

Your doctor or specialist can refer you to GSWA or you can contact us directly. Once we receive a referral we will send you a form to help you collect your family history details (including which relatives have had cancer and their age of diagnosis). The genetic counsellor needs this information before they can assess your risk.

### Who will I see?

You may meet with a genetic counsellor and/or geneticist. Individual appointments may take up to one hour.

Genetic Counsellors are health professionals with training in genetics and counselling. They provide information and psychosocial support to individuals or families who have concerns about a genetic condition in their family.

Geneticists are specialist medical doctors with training in clinical genetics and genetic counselling.

### What happens at the appointment?

Your medical and family history will be reviewed and the likelihood that an inherited form of cancer is present in your family will be discussed. Possible choices for treatment, early detection and prevention will be discussed. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions.

You may need more than one appointment and you can bring your partner or another support person with you.

### What is Genetic Testing?

Genetic testing is possible in some families and involves taking a small blood sample. If the family gene change has not yet been found, testing starts with a relative who has had cancer. It is not always possible to detect a changed gene in the family.

If a gene change is found, testing may be offered to your family members who have no signs of cancer, but may be at risk of developing cancer.

Genetic counselling is available before and after testing, for you to discuss any concerns.

### Validating Cancers

This means obtaining documentation about a cancer diagnosis in yourself or a relative. Obtaining pathology reports can confirm the type of cancer, the age of diagnosis, and in some cases, provide clues about the likelihood of the cancer being due to an inherited predisposition.

We can't access this information without a person's permission so we may ask you to obtain consent from your relatives or their next of kin.