

## **Lung Cancer Action Plan – Main Points**

This year, almost 2,500 men and women in Ireland will receive a lung cancer diagnosis. And sadly more than 1,800 people will die from this disease. Furthermore, research shows that lung cancer incidence increases with deprivation levels.

The Irish Cancer Society is publishing an Action Plan on Lung Cancer because: lung cancer is often diagnosed late; it causes the most cancer deaths; the number of cases is increasing; and it is mainly a preventable cancer. We believe it doesn't have to be that way.

The initial results of the NELSON trial make it an opportune time to talk about lung cancer screening in Ireland. Lung cancer screening has the potential to detect lung cancer at an early stage, and improve mortality. We are asking that Lung Cancer Screening be given early consideration by the National Screening Committee that was recommended by Dr. Gabriel Scally.

The Irish Cancer Society believes that Ireland has the opportunity to be a world leader in the fight against lung cancer.

### **Key recommendations in the action plan include:**

#### *Prevention*

- Department of Health, with key stakeholders, fully implement the recommendations of the Tobacco Free Ireland Plan;
- Protect the population from radiation and other carcinogenic substances, and raise awareness of the causes of occupational cancers.

#### *Early diagnosis*

- The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), together with stakeholders, run multi-annual, national, targeted campaigns to raise awareness of lung cancer;
- Improvement initiatives at Rapid Access Clinics continue and KPIs are rigorously monitored to ensure targets set out in National Cancer Strategy are met.

#### *Screening*

- Once constituted, the National Screening Committee (which was recommended by Dr. Gabriel Scally) should give early consideration to the introduction of lung cancer screening;
- The Irish Government works with other European Governments to champion the establishment by the European Commission of an EU Expert Group on Lung Cancer Screening, and support the development of guidelines for quality assurance on screening at a pan-European level.

#### *Treatment and survivorship*

- Increase funding for lung cancer research and direct more resources to research and respond to the psychosocial issues that lung cancer presents;
- Development of a comprehensive care plan for lung cancer patients addressing their emotional and physical needs.

#### *Palliative care*

- Ensure that lung cancer patients get access to palliative care services as early as possible.

In order to increase lung cancer survival into the future and reduce Ireland's high mortality from lung cancer, we need to act now. These achievable goals, outlined above, could make meaningful and significant changes to lung cancer patients.

Further information on lung cancer, including incidence and staging data, is available at:

<https://www.ncri.ie/sites/ncri/files/factsheets/Factsheet%20lung.pdf>