

# CANCER SURVIVOR AND HEALTH PROVIDERS PERSPECTIVES ON HEAD AND NECK CANCER SURVIVORSHIP MODELS IN AUSTRALIA

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## BACKGROUND

- Post-treatment surveillance and survivorship care for head and neck cancer (HNC) patients varies across institutions.
- Safe surveillance schedules need to complement quality, person-centred survivorship care.
- Solutions which can efficiently utilise current resources while maintaining clinical safety need to be explored.

## METHODS

### 1. National clinician survey

Cross sectional online survey distributed to HNC specialists across Australia.

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### 2. Qualitative exploration

Focus groups and semi-structured interviews with cancer survivors, carers, and multi-disciplinary HNC health providers.

### 3. Data Analysis

Quantitative data analysed using descriptive statistics.

Qualitative data analysed using reflexive thematic analysis.

### 4. Interpretation of findings

Triangulation of data to construct meaning.

Recommendations for improving survivorship care models developed.

## CONCLUSIONS

Multi-disciplinary models are needed that **include emotional and psychosocial support.**

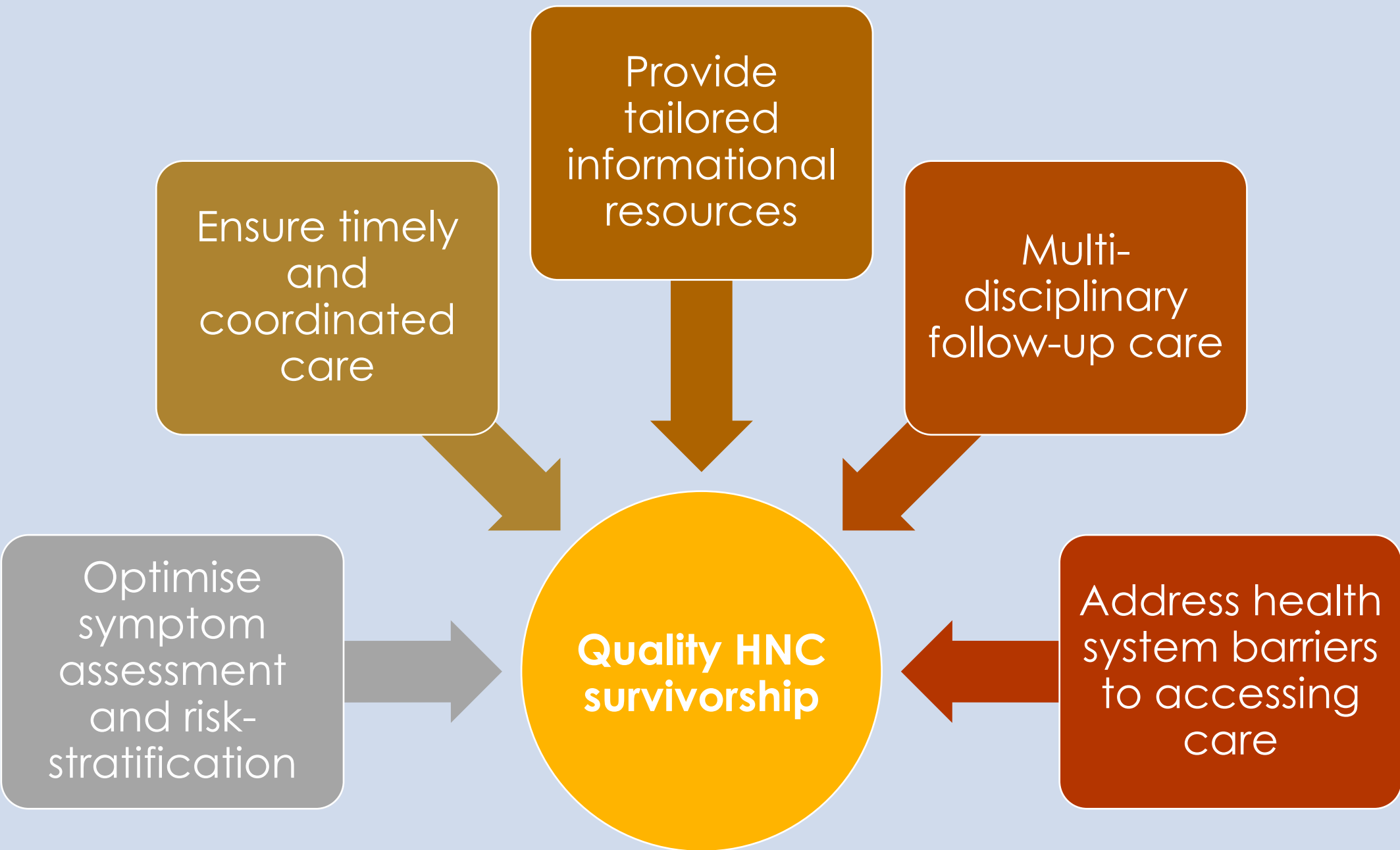
Health system barriers impact **care coordination and holistic care.**

Challenges remain in rural and remote areas as surveillance requires **particular skills that need to be provided by specialists.**

Incorporating **digital monitoring tools** can help personalise care and contribute to risk-stratified surveillance.

## RESULTS

- 40 specialists completed the survey.
- 32 participants contributed to the qualitative study (17 cancer survivors, 9 carers, and 8 health providers).
- Participants agreed that current survivorship care models were not standardised or tailored to individual needs.



Future research needs to develop and evaluate **personalised, equitable, and scalable care models** that address the diverse and complex needs of HNC survivors, particularly for underserved populations.