



Australia's Leading Specialist
Brain Cancer Support Charity

The Economic and Social Value of Peace of Mind Foundation

Report prepared by
Mandala for POMF

JUNE 2026



Mandala acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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Executive Summary

Peace of Mind Foundation fills a critical gap in supporting Australians affected by brain cancer.

Beyond the health effects, brain cancer is a significant financial, emotional, and practical burden on patients and their families.

Peace of Mind Foundation (POMF) complements existing social care supports. Its personalised, community-based programs help families access financial assistance, navigate care plans, receive emotional support, and practical support to manage the day-to-day challenges of living with brain cancer.

Such services are critical in improving the performance of the care system and its ability to effectively deliver for patients.

POMF offers patients and their families:

- The National Advocacy Service, which helps families navigate care and social support application procedures
- The Community Brain Cancer Navigator program, which helps patients develop care plans and access to suitable support
- Counselling services and community events

Today, approximately 1,000 patients are referred to POMF each year.

POMF generates approximately \$12 million in economic value each year, equivalent to \$8.40 of social return for every \$1 invested.

The National Advocacy Service delivers \$8.7 million in annual economic value by helping families access financial support and reducing administrative costs for the public service.

Each year, the program assists 700+ families, connecting eligible participants to an average of \$253,000 in government assistance while improving workforce participation and reducing financial stress.

The Community Brain Cancer Navigator program contributes a further \$3.2 million in annual economic value by reducing avoidable healthcare utilisation, easing caregiver burden and lowering out-of-pocket costs.

POMF's counselling services, its retreats and events connect patients and their families to a network of peers, building a more resilient and supportive brain cancer community.

Expanding POMF's model would deliver greater benefits for patients, families and the healthcare system.

Australia is ageing and chronic and complex conditions are becoming more prevalent.

If POMF's model were expanded to support every new brain cancer patient in Australia, it is estimated to generate approximately \$85 million in net economic value each year.

The provision of sophisticated and coordinated navigation and advocacy services helps patients achieve stronger outcomes through earlier access to financial and practical supports, whilst easing the burden on carers.

For governments, it helps the care system work more efficiently, thereby also reducing costs.

Peace of Mind Foundation provides brain cancer patients and their families with holistic, individualised community support

To date, Peace of Mind Foundation has supported Australians affected by brain cancer across the country.

~1,000

Patients are referred to Peace of Mind Foundation every year

326

Families connected to an average of **\$253K** in NDIS assistance each year

POMF's three main support programs, the National Advocacy Service, Navigator and Counselling programs have been highly impactful, in total delivering:

\$12M

In current economic value every year

\$8.40

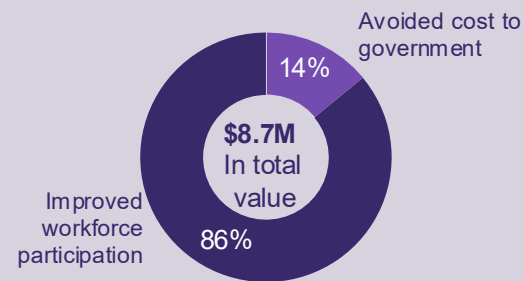
In economic value for every dollar invested in POMF

If Peace of Mind Foundation were scaled to benefit every new brain cancer case...

\$85M

In net economic value would be delivered each year

The National Advocacy Service (NAS) eases the financial burden of brain cancer, delivering \$23,500 in economic value for every participant it supports



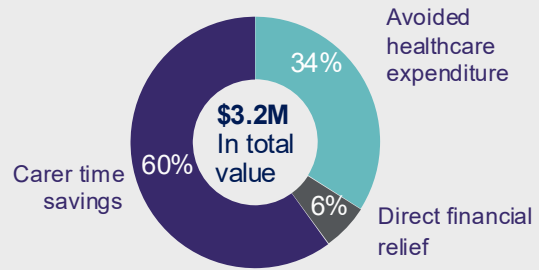
733 families referred to NAS for specialised triaging and support completing applications

92% of families experienced improved support on caregiver burdens

Community Brain Cancer Navigators supports families with the practical burdens of cancer, delivering \$36,500 in economic value for every family

95% of patients with a Navigator report lower mental health challenges and isolation

~88 families provided with comprehensive wellbeing support each year





1

Peace of Mind Foundation supports everyday Australians to navigate the challenges of brain cancer

2

The National Advocacy Service eases the financial burden of brain cancer, connecting families to an average of \$253K in financial support and delivering \$8.7M in economic value

3

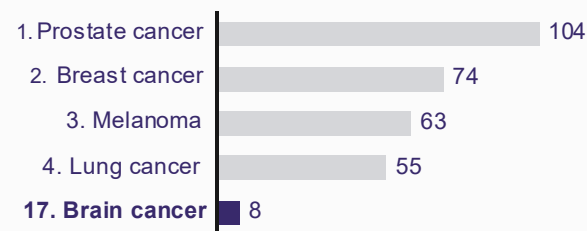
The Navigator program assists families to navigate the emotional burdens of brain cancer, freeing up carer time and contributing \$3.2M in economic value

Brain cancer is not as common as other cancers but has a low survival rate, with only 24% of patients surviving five years after diagnosis

Brain cancer has one of the lowest survival rates amongst all cancers. Rates have only slightly improved despite large advances in cancer medicine.

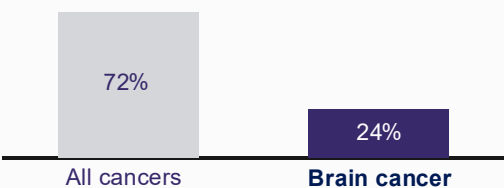
Incidence rate (cases per 100,000)

2025



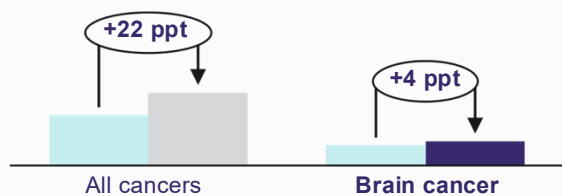
Five-year survival rate

2017-2021



Improvement in survival rate over last 30 years

1987-91 to 2017-21



Financial burden	Neurological burden	Emotional burden
\$535 per month in median out-of-pocket costs for Australian patients and carers of high-grade glioma	96% of glioma patients suffer from cancer-related fatigue	74% of brain cancer patients experience psychological distress during their disease.
1.8 million hours of unpaid care was provided by informal carers of Australian IDH-mutant glioma patients in 2024	90% of glioblastoma patients experience cognitive deficits e.g. memory, attention, reasoning, and language processing impairments	37.5% and 64% of caregivers to brain cancer patients suffered from depression and anxiety respectively

Source: Randazzo (2016) Psychological distress and its effects on the health-related quality of life on primary brain tumor patients; Chen et al. (2025) A systematic review and meta-analysis of psychological burden in family caregivers of brain cancer; Newton et al. (2024) Out-of-pocket costs for patients diagnosed with high-grade glioma and their carers; Ghadmi et al. (2025) Cognitive decline in GB patients with different treatment modalities and insights on untreated cases; Chielfo et al. (2023) Brain tumor at diagnosis; AIHW (2025) Cancer data in Australia; Evohealth (2025) Invisible brain cancers: Living with the social and economic impact of IDH-mutant glioma

As chronic care needs become more common and complex, navigation and advocacy will be crucial in delivering Australia’s healthcare needs

More Australians are suffering from multiple chronic conditions (i.e. multimorbidity) as our population continues to age. In 2022, one in two Australians had at least one chronic condition and 22% had two or more conditions.

Managing multiple chronic conditions often requires complex coordinated care from different health professionals. In the last year, 18% of patients reported seeing three or more health professionals. Cancer is a chronic disease associated with aging.

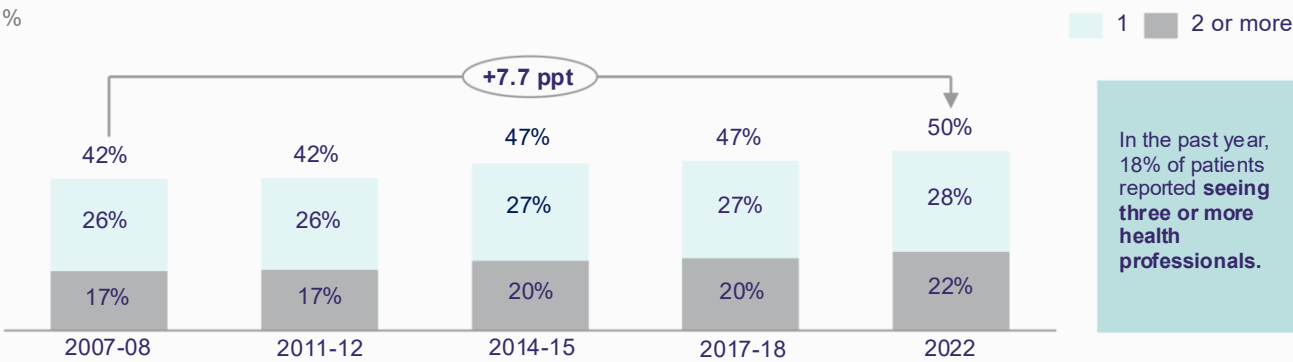
Over the next ten years, the incidence of cancer in the Australian population is expected to grow by 9 per cent.

Complex comorbidities such as mental health disorders, dementia, chronic infections or autoimmune diseases are also common among cancer patients. If inadequately managed, outcomes may worsen significantly.

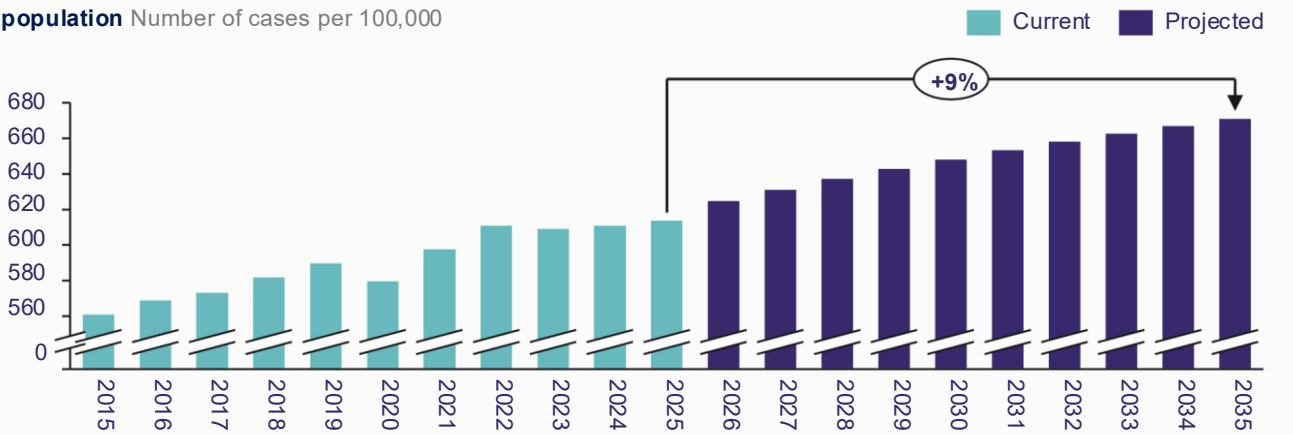
Supports in community that offer patients and their families help with navigational, advocacy, and practical tasks will be important in achieving optimal outcomes.

Source: Panigrahi et al. (2022) How comorbidities shape cancer biology and survival

Proportion of Australian population with one or more chronic conditions



Forecasted cancer incidences in Australian



Source: ABS (2022) National Health Survey; ABS (2025) Patient Experience

Peace of Mind Foundation delivers practical, emotional and community-based support programs for brain cancer patients and their families

Peace of Mind Foundation <i>Individualised, in-community support to navigate the health and social care systems</i>				
Programs	1	2	3	4
	National Advocacy Service	Community Brain Cancer Navigator	Counselling	Events and Retreats
Overview of their activities ¹	- Prepare and submit applications to the NDIS, Centrelink and other government programs on behalf of patients and carers - Provide information and advocacy support online, by phone or in-person - Connect patients and carers with local support services in their community - Provide resources to patients, including copies of 'The Survivorship Diary'.	- Help patients and families navigate the clinical and care system - Provide guidance on financial matters, wills and advance care planning - Offer informal counselling and referrals to formal counselling services - Connect patients with other POMF support programs	- Provide funded one-on-one counselling sessions for patients and carers - Provide financial aid grants to families, supporting 220 families with a total of \$100,000 distributed in 2025 - Run monthly online support groups for patients and carers, and provide mediation and wellbeing resources. - Facilitate quarterly bereavement support groups for carers	- Host annual retreats for patients and families affected by brain cancer across Australia - Run community events throughout the year across the country - Create supportive spaces for connection, inspiration and shared experiences

¹ The key activities listed are not an exhaustive list of Peace of Mind Foundation's work.
Source: Mandala analysis

Peace of Mind Foundation offers brain cancer patients a range of vital supports that complement the existing care system

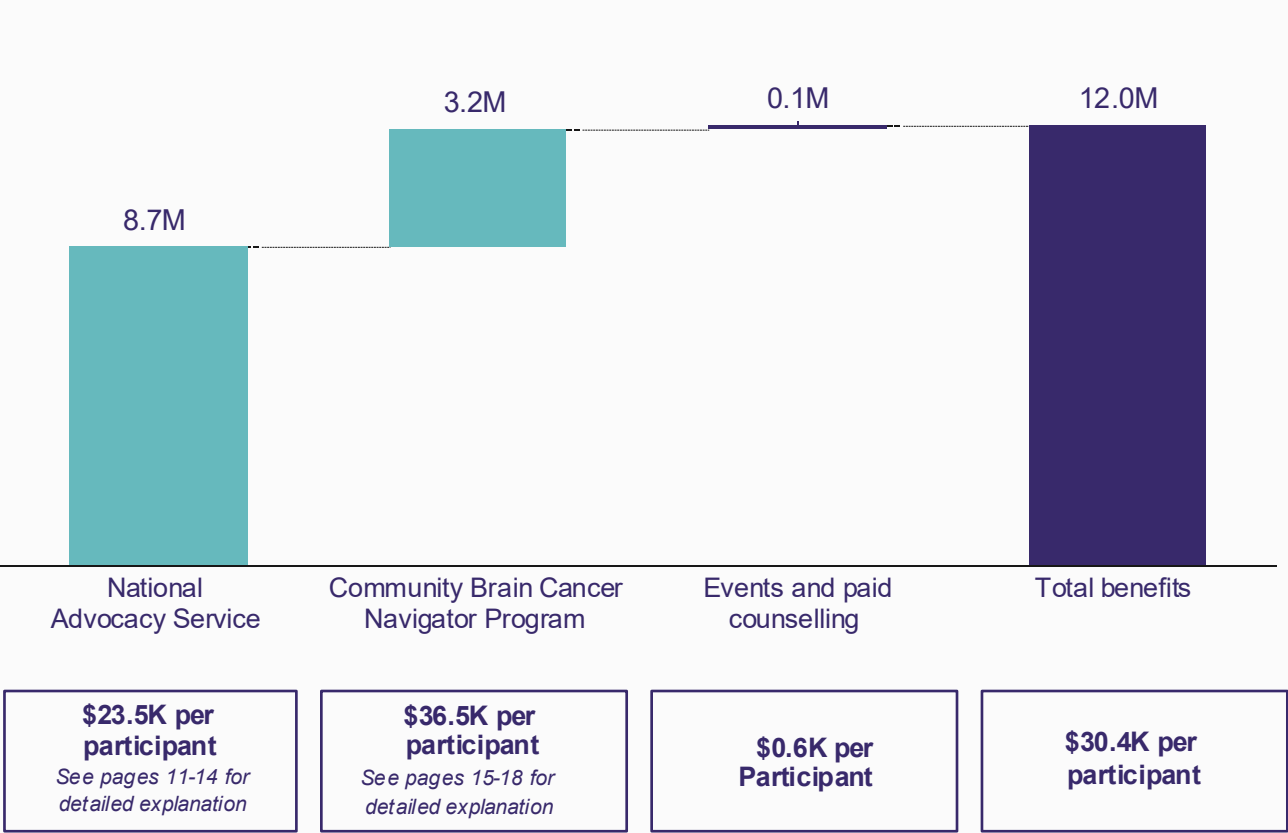
	Health system <i>Treatment in clinical settings</i>	Social system <i>Social and wellbeing improvements</i>	Peace of Mind Foundation <i>Individualised, in-community support to navigate the health and social care systems</i>
Practical support <i>Day-to-day tasks, logistics and care navigation</i>	Hospital care coordinators support treatment referrals and social workers provide practical support resources	Public resources such as Health direct help patients find trusted resources on health services and health information for free	National Advocacy Service helps families with administrative tasks remotely while Navigators support with in-person tasks such as attending appointments
Wellbeing support <i>Emotional, social and psychological care</i>	Psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers provide emotional support in a clinical setting	Publicly funded websites such as Carers Gateway provide practical resources for families with caring responsibilities	Navigators offer in-depth conversations with families in their homes on the unique difficulties of caregiving for brain cancer
Financial support <i>Navigating costs and financial assistance</i>		Government provides payments to carers and patients for everyday expenses and additional care needs e.g. NDIS, Centrelink	National Advocacy Service connects families to government assistance and Navigators can assist families with budgeting or accessing financial planners
Rehabilitation <i>Living with declining cognitive abilities</i>	Physiotherapists and speech pathologists support patients with declining cognitive and motor skills		Navigators support families with understanding and living with the declining cognition unique to brain cancer
End of life support <i>Palliative care and bereavement</i>	Palliative care teams, including social workers support patients with end-of-life treatment		Navigators offer in-depth support throughout bereavement, including funeral planning

Source: Mandala analysis

Peace of Mind Foundation delivers at least \$12M in economic value annually, equivalent to \$8.40 in social return for every \$1 invested

Economic value from the Peace of Mind Foundation's programs

\$A p.a.



8.4 : 1

Social return on investment ratio.
The total cost to run POMF's entire operations is \$1.4M

\$85M

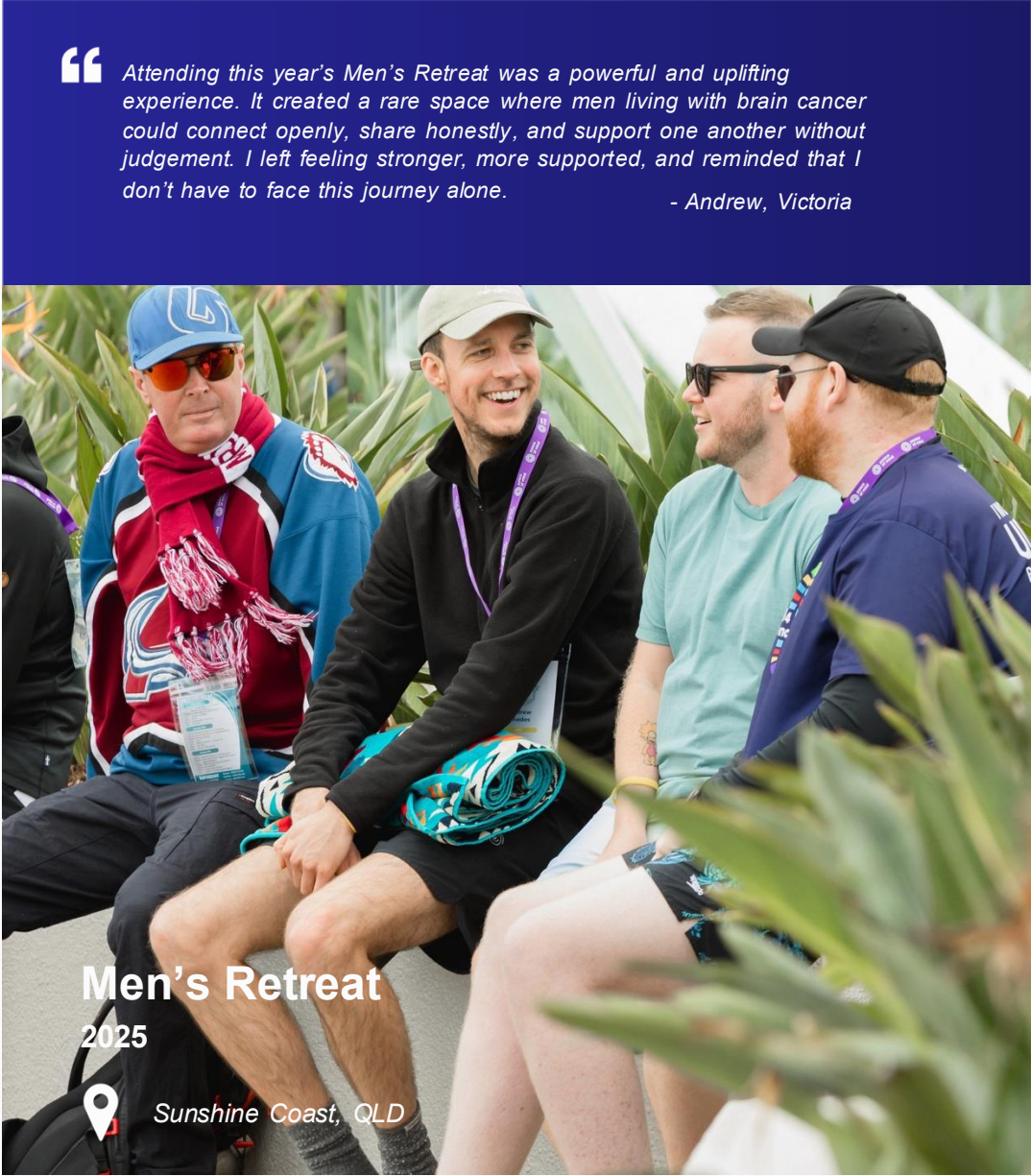
In net economic value if expanded from the current level of service to 100% of potential new brain cancer patients

Source: Mandala analysis

Peace of Mind Foundation creates a strong sense of community through a series of events and retreats

EVENT	 Community Days	 Retreats
PURPOSE	Provide support, reassurance and a sense of community for brain cancer patients and their loved ones	Foster a sense of belonging among patients by creating a safe, trusted and empathetic environment
IMPACT	2-3 community days per year, rotating across different states and territories 120 patients and families attended the 2026 Victorian Community Day at Werribee Zoo	1-3 retreats per year, tailored to different groups, including men's, women's, family and bereavement- focused support 36 patients and carers attended the Men's Retreat in Sunshine Coast, QLD

Source: Stakeholder Consultations; Mandala analysis





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Peace of Mind Foundation supports everyday Australians to navigate the challenges of brain cancer

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The National Advocacy Service eases the financial burden of brain cancer, connecting families to an average of \$253K in financial support and delivering \$8.7M in economic value

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The Navigator program assists families to navigate the emotional burdens of brain cancer, freeing up carer time and contributing \$3.2M in economic value

The National Advocacy Service connects patients to financial support by providing specialised triaging and completing applications on their behalf

Steps required for a patient to receive government financial assistance (e.g. NDIS, My Aged Care) with and without POMF's National Advocacy Service

	1. Understand financial options	2. Assess eligibility	3. Gather evidence and complete application	Average acceptance rate
Without specialised support	 • Patient or their carer browses online resources or brochures from the hospital • Patient may be suffering from cognitive decline which impacts ability to process information	 • Patient or their carer manually checks eligibility of all financial assistance options they found by reading websites or visiting • Centrelink centres	 • Patient or their carer contacts all relevant health professionals to gather evidence and write a letter of support • Submits application, including resubmissions if more evidence is needed	All NDIS cases: 80% Brain cancer cases: 30%
POMF's National Advocacy Service	 🌸 National Advocacy Service contacts patient after receiving referral from clinical team 🌸 A dedicated NAS worker asks specific questions to understand their circumstance and eligibility, providing emotional support throughout the process 🌸 The NAS worker recommends a set of options that matches the patient's circumstances and needs 🌸 Options may include a range of NDIS, Aged Care, Centrelink payments to smaller grants and bursaries		 🌸 NAS Client Support Specialist to prepare all documentation required, outlining evidence needed for each payment option 🌸 NAS Client Support Specialist to contact health professionals directly for proof and signature 🌸 NAS maintains a relationship with NDIS to ensure application is correctly filled	All NAS cases: 97%

Note: Average acceptance rates are for NDIS applications with an 'Access Met' decision.

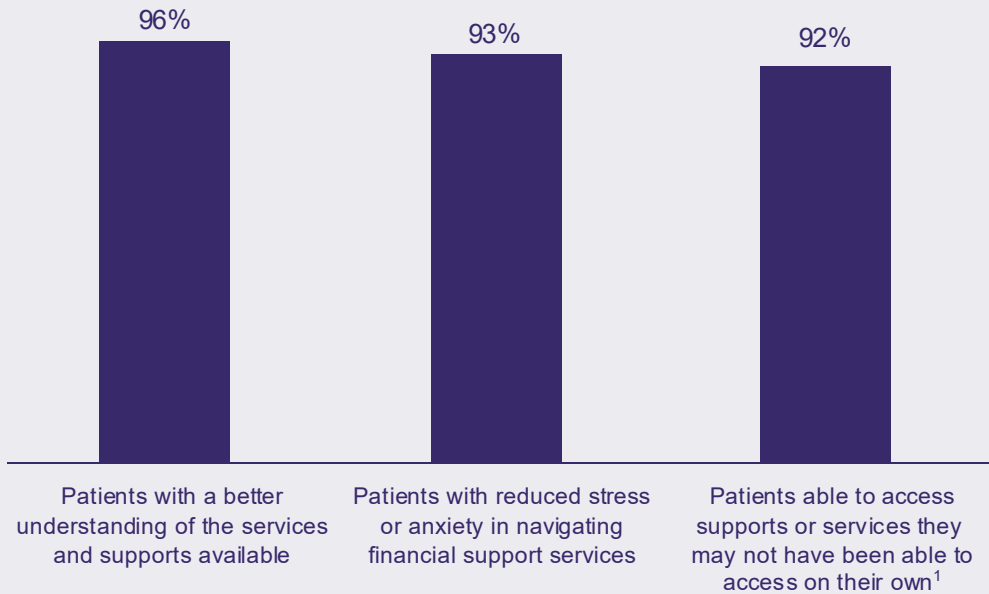
Source NDIS (2025) Annual report; NDIS (2025) National dashboard; Building the Bridge (2025) Guide to brain cancer

93% of patients supported by the National Advocacy Service feel less stressed or anxious navigating their care

Patient experiences from National Advocacy Service support

% of survey respondents, 2026

The National Advocacy Service helps each family access an average of \$253K by providing navigating services, completing applications and coordinating support

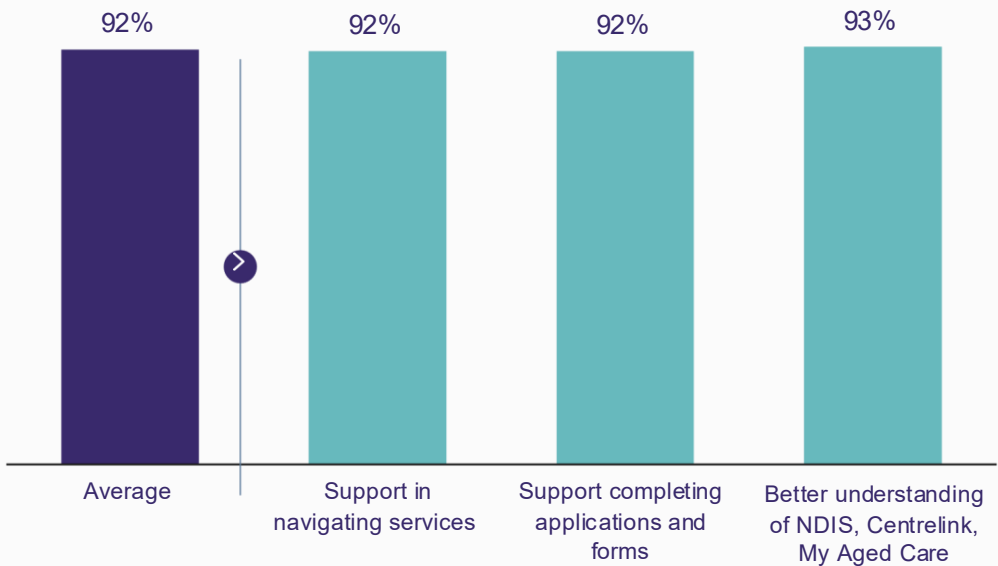


¹ Only includes responses from patients who selected "agree" or "strongly agree".
Source: Peace of Mind Foundation (2026) Patient Experience Survey.

92% of families experience improved support on caregiver burdens through the National Advocacy Service

Family and carer experiences from National Advocacy Service support

% of survey respondents, 2026

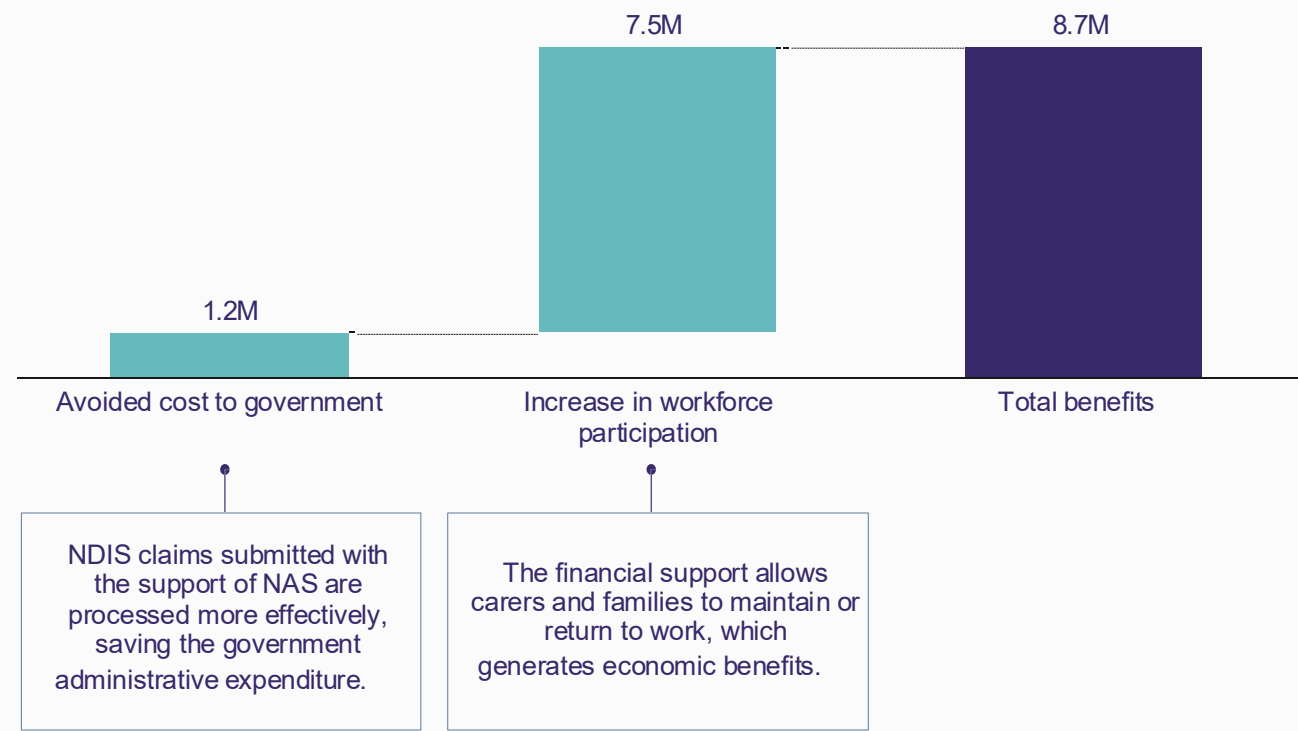


Source: Peace of Mind Foundation (2026) Patient Experience Survey.

The National Advocacy Service contributes \$8.7M in economic value annually through public cost savings and increasing workforce participation

Economic and system benefits of the National Advocacy Service

\$A p.a.



Source: Mandala analysis

Testimonials

“ We had tried applying for Centrelink Disability Support Pension but were rejected...there was no real guidance available, and we were left feeling lost and helpless. **When my advocate became involved, everything changed.** They helped us significantly in preparing and submitting the Centrelink and NDIS applications

- Mohammad and his family

“ I will always be thankful for the NAS. I **honestly don't know where we'd be on this journey without my advocate's advice, guidance, advocacy, and their steady, no-nonsense common sense delivered with such kindness and gentleness**

- David's mum



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The Community Brain Cancer Navigator complements the role of existing health workers to ensure patients have access to comprehensive wellbeing support

Role of Brain Cancer Care Coordinators (BCCCs), Social workers and POMF's Navigators in supporting brain cancer patients

BCCCs, social workers and Navigators have distinct roles in supporting the complexities and burden of a brain cancer diagnosis. **Navigators** help patients **improve their quality of life (QOL)** by **providing an extra layer of support outside of clinical settings**. Together, all three roles complement each other to ensure patients have comprehensive care.

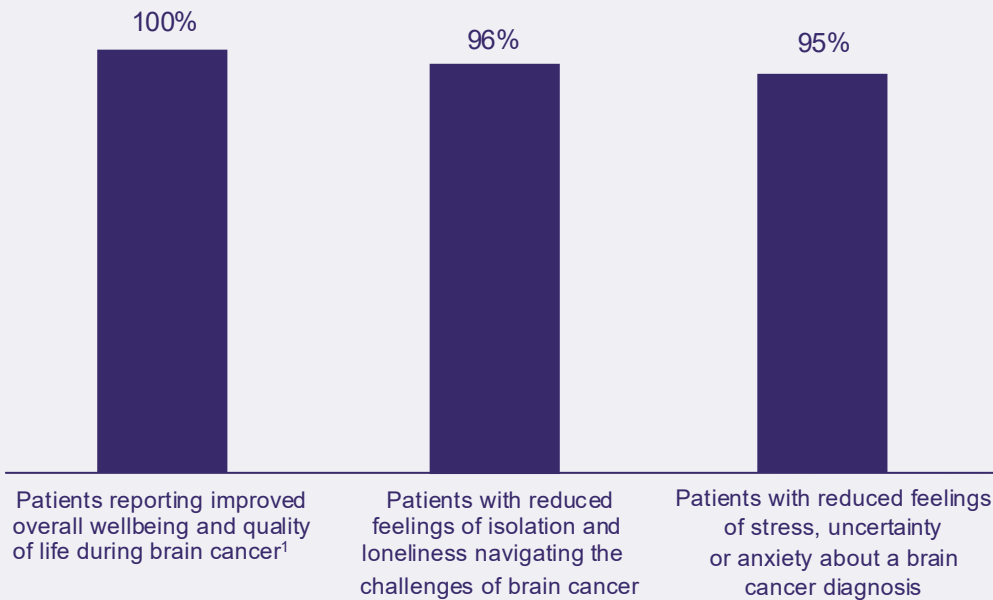
		Care Coordinators	Social workers	Community Navigators
 Treatment coordination	Assist medical treatment team in coordinating care and information	●		
	Facilitate appointments, results and treatment schedules	●		
	Assess need for referrals to specialists or allied health	●		
 Resources and education	Provide information about a patient's disease, procedures and treatment	●		
	Provide information on support resources or social programs in hospitals		●	
	Provide information on in-community support, resources and programs			●
 Informal counselling	Counsel patients and families while receiving care in hospitals		●	
	Counsel patients and families in their home before and after treatment and between points of contact with clinical care			●
	Provide in-depth levels of emotional and practical discussions			●
 Practical support	Encourage patients to engage in activities and provide social interaction			●
	Assist families with navigating difficult conversations and conflict			●
	Provide company and support at medical appointments			●

Source: Mandala analysis

100% of patients working with a Navigator report improved wellbeing and quality of life

Patient experiences from receiving Navigator support

% of survey respondents, 2026

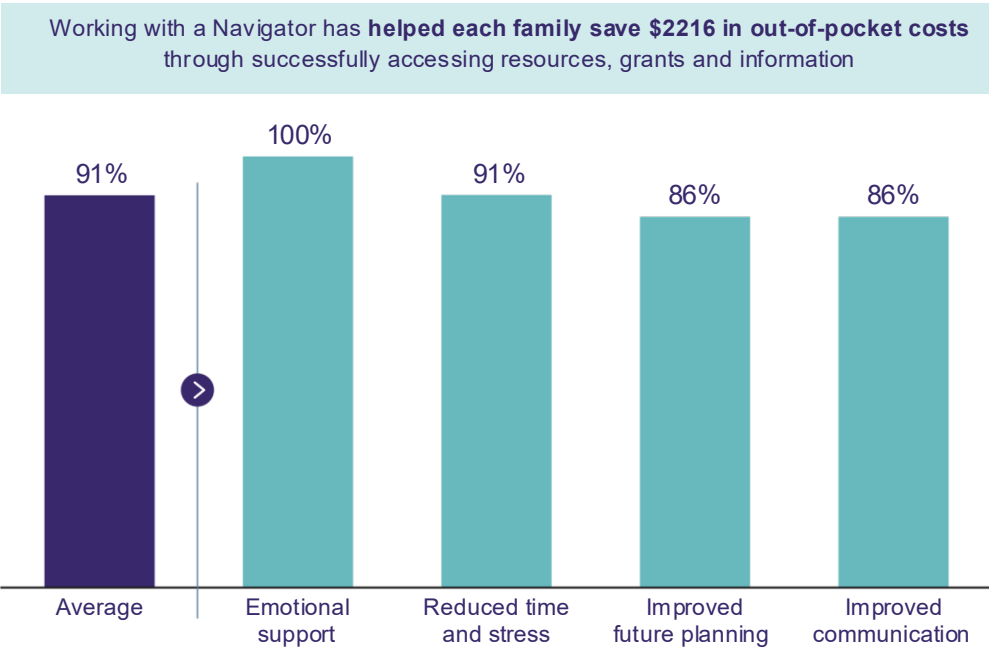


¹ Only includes responses from patients who selected "agree" or "strongly agree".
Source: Peace of Mind Foundation (2026) Patient Experience Survey.

91% of families with brain cancer experience reduced caregiver burdens from working with a Navigator

Family and carer experiences from receiving Navigator support

% of survey respondents, 2026

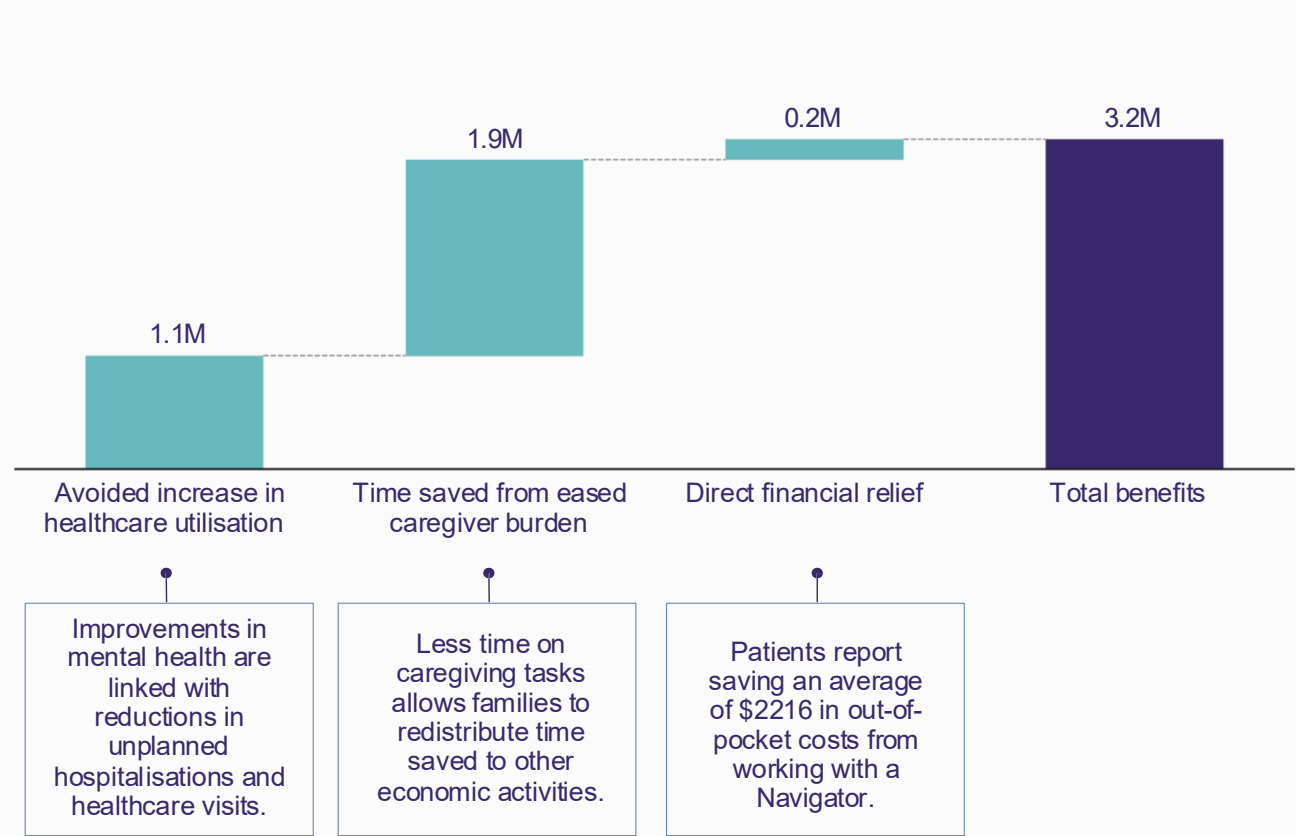


Source: Peace of Mind Foundation (2026) Patient Experience Survey.

The Navigator Program contributes \$3.2M in economic value annually by reducing avoidable health visits and freeing up carers' time

Economic value of the Community Brain Cancer Navigator Program

\$ p.a.



Source: Mandala analysis

Testimonials

“
Having a brain cancer navigator was the first time I felt that myself and my family were seen as a family unit in a complex, emotional and individual situation.”

“
Have no words to describe my gratitude for our navigator's presence and help. They eased the confusion and quietly and efficiently navigated us along the whole way”

“
I can't even put into words the support and care my navigator provided to my partner, myself and even our three children”



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