

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

CANCER (REGISTRATION) ACT 1988

No. 64 of 1988

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

No. 64 of 1988

AN ACT

to provide for the registration of cancer
and for related matters

[Assented to 15 December 1988]

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory of Australia, with the assent as provided by the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* of the Commonwealth, as follows:

1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the Cancer (Registration) Act 1988.

2. COMMENCEMENT

This Act shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Administrator by notice in the Gazette.

3. DEFINITIONS

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears -

"cancer" means a neoplasm of human tissue that is malignant, that if unchecked invades adjacent tissues or extends beyond its site of origin, and that has the propensity to recur either locally or remotely in the body;

"Registrar" means the person appointed Registrar for the purposes of this Act.

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4. APPOINTMENT OF REGISTRAR TO MAINTAIN CANCER REGISTER

(1) The Minister shall appoint a person to act as Registrar for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Registrar shall establish and maintain a register of persons in respect of whom he has been provided with details in pursuance of this Act.

5. DETAILS TO BE PROVIDED TO REGISTRAR

(1) The person in charge of a place where specimens of human origin are accepted for pathological examination (whether the examination is to take place within the Territory or outside it) shall, within 7 days of receiving a report which indicates that the person from whom a specimen was taken is or was suffering from cancer, provide the Registrar with the prescribed details (so far as available to him) in respect of that person.

(2) The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages shall, in every case where the registration of a person's death shows cancer as the cause of death, provide the Registrar with the details contained in that registration.

(3) A person who -

(a) fails to comply with subsection (1); or

(b) knowingly provides details pursuant to subsection (1) that are false or misleading,

is guilty of an offence.

Penalty: \$100.

6. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), it is an offence for a person to disclose to another, except for a purpose related to the carrying out of this Act or where the disclosure is required by law, any information provided under section 5 which has come to his knowledge in the performance of a function connected with or incidental to the carrying out of this Act.

Penalty: \$1,000.

(2) The Registrar may in his discretion make information provided under section 5 publicly available in a statistical form that does not identify those to whom the information relates.

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(3) Subject to subsection (4), the Registrar may in his discretion disclose specific information provided under section 5 to a person authorized in writing by the Chief Medical Officer appointed under the Public Health Act to undertake scientific research in accordance with guidelines established by the National Health and Medical Research Council continued in existence by the National Health and Medical Research Council Order made by the Governor-General on 21 December 1987 and published in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No. GN2 dated 20 January 1988.

(4) The consent in writing of the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages is required for the disclosure by virtue of subsection (3) of information provided by him.

7. REGULATIONS

The Administrator may make regulations prescribing matters -

- (a) required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed; or
 - (b) necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.
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