

MCCABE CENTRE FOR LAW AND CANCER

Intensive Legal Training Program



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Program consists of an intensive 3-week training course conducted twice a year at the McCabe Centre in Melbourne, Australia primarily for government lawyers from low- and middle-income countries, and related follow-up activities. The Program builds capacity in the use of law to prevent and control cancer and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) particularly in the context of developing coherence between health, trade and investment laws, policies and sectors.

The Program responds to the needs created by the rising burden of cancer and other NCDs, and the related impacts on development. It supports the implementation by states of their commitments under the 2011 UN Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of NCDs, the 2014 Outcome document of the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs, the World Health Organization's Global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013-2020, and the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), and related regional statements and action plans.

The Program addresses a pressing need for legal capacity building regularly expressed by low-and middle-income country governments. It supports governments by educating, empowering and supporting local policy-makers, leaders and champions.

The Program is conducted in collaboration with the Secretariat to the WHO FCTC, as a McCabe Centre WHO FCTC knowledge hub activity, and the World Health Organization.

COURSE CURRICULUM

The course consists of a structured 2-week curriculum of presentations, discussion, group work, case studies and practical exercises, and a semi-structured third week, during which participants work on projects of priority for their country and/or region with assistance and support from McCabe Centre staff, fellow participants, and external experts.

The curriculum covers legal issues across the cancer / NCD continuum from prevention to treatment and supportive care, with a focus on regulating risk factors, particularly tobacco use. It includes sessions on global health law; the post-2015 sustainable development agenda; the WHO FCTC and other key UN and WHO instruments; international trade law; international investment law; intellectual property law; constitutional and administrative law challenges to tobacco control; access to cancer treatment and care; the use of evidence in policy development and litigation; and the ongoing trade and investment challenges to Australia's plain packaging legislation.

This initiative responds to the following World Cancer Declaration targets:



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Ongoing support

The Program provides ongoing networks of information-sharing and support, both between the McCabe Centre and participants and among participants.

Successful pilot

The Program was run, highly successfully, for the first time in February – March 2014. Twenty-seven government and NGO representatives from 22 countries participated, mostly lawyers from low- and middle-income countries working either in Health or Attorney-General's Departments. The McCabe Centre remains in regular contact with participants, providing ongoing support, creating opportunities for participants to engage in follow-up activities, and facilitating contact between participants.

Selection of participants

The Program is conducted primarily for government lawyers from low- and middle-income countries. Participants are selected in coordination with the WHO FCTC Secretariat, WHO headquarters and regional and country offices. The primary selection criterion is that participants are well-placed to benefit from the Program and apply their learning and new networks to legal and policy developments in their country and/or region. While primarily targeted at low- and middle-income countries, the Program is also open to participation from high-income countries.

Major partners

The Program receives funding support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Cancer Council Australia. This support is focused primarily on countries in the Indo-Pacific Region. The McCabe Centre welcomes the involvement of additional partners, particularly to support participation from other regions.

Other McCabe Centre training

The McCabe Centre conducts a range of other training and capacity building activities, including in conjunction with the biennial World Cancer Congress and annual World Cancer Leaders' Summit. It works with partners to facilitate and support training and capacity building activities in other countries and regions.

MAJOR SUPPORTERS



Australian Government
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