

Hi

I'd like to introduce myself as Troy Bevan. I am a fit a healthy 32 year old male from Waroona in country WA. I am making this submission in the hope of influencing the government to provide more funding for research into cancers which currently have a very low survival rate, in particular, brain cancer.

Up until last July I knew nothing about brain cancer and its low survival rate. I knew plenty about other common cancers like breast cancer and prostate cancer and the very positive developments in finding cures for them over the years but I knew nothing about brain cancer. Last July was when my Mum, Margaret Bevan, was diagnosed with brain cancer. Mum was also fit and healthy, or so we thought, until the night in July when she had a seizure and was taken to hospital. Two days later Mum had surgery to remove a large tumor off the left side of her brain, two other tumors were left behind because it was too dangerous to remove them. Mum was diagnosed with stage 4 glioblastoma, the worst type of brain cancer there is. She would be dead in 3 months without treatment but may live for up to 18 months with treatment, which involves radiotherapy and oral form of chemotherapy. Thankfully Mum is still alive today as she chose to go through with the treatment, but unfortunately her health is quickly deteriorating due to the chemo.

After learning of Mums diagnosis I began to do my own research into brain cancer, hoping to find other treatments which might be more successful than the treatment she was receiving. I quickly found that there wasn't many options for brain cancer treatment available. My hopes were high when I heard about clinical trials, but when I looked into it further I found that there is currently no clinical trials available for stage 4 glioblastoma. This is also when I came across the Brain Cancer Foundation. Through the Brain Cancer Foundation I learnt about the very low levels of government funding which is actually made available for brain cancer research and how the foundation relies mainly on donations for continued research. I also learnt that in the past, more common forms of cancer such as prostate and breast were just as deadly, but research into these cancers has helped to make them curable and greatly increase survival rates. A lot of funding for research into these cancers is provided by the government and this is why I ask the government to consider providing more funding toward brain cancer research and hopefully one day brain cancer will be just as curable as breast or prostate cancer. Thank you for considering my submission.

Troy Bevan