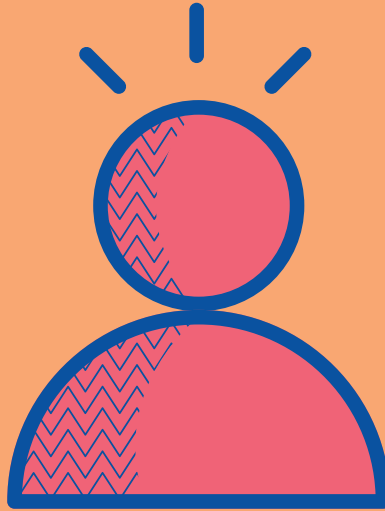


**WORLD  
CANCER  
DAY4FEB**

**I CAN**



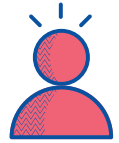
**RETURN TO WORK**

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# I CAN RETURN TO WORK



Many people living with cancer want to return to work. They mention both financial and emotional reasons for going back to work, with a job restoring normality, stability, social contact and income<sup>1</sup>.

Most often, people living with the disease need their employers to make some allowances to support them to get back to work successfully<sup>2,3</sup>. Talking about cancer to their employers can help ensure that appropriate adjustments are put in place for the person living with the disease or their caregivers, such as changes in tasks or accommodation of different physical needs, e.g. adjusting for changes in mobility or physical functioning such as difficulty with stairs. A phased-return to work

may also be possible so that a person is supported to ease back into work. Often, the types of changes required vary over time and continuing open and honest conversations with an employer about what is and is not possible in terms of flexible work arrangements and job adjustments is critically important to avoid distress for all.

It is also important for people with cancer who want to return to work to understand their rights. In many countries, employers have a legal obligation to make reasonable adjustments at work for people living with cancer and to ensure they are not at a disadvantage compared to other employees<sup>4,5</sup>.

**With the right support, people living with cancer can return to work successfully.**

This factsheet is aimed at



Workplaces

1. Macmillan Cancer Support. Work and Cancer. <http://www.macmillan.org.uk/Cancerinformation/Livingwithandaftercancer/Workandcancer/Workandcancer.aspx>
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3. Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. (2012). Return to Work Concerns Faced by People Dealing with Cancer and Caregivers. [http://www.cancerview.ca/idc/groups/public/documents/webcontent/rtw\\_literature\\_review.pdf](http://www.cancerview.ca/idc/groups/public/documents/webcontent/rtw_literature_review.pdf)
4. UICC, Bupa (2015). Working with cancer: Supporting employees living with cancer to return to work. <http://www.iccp-portal.org/resources/uicc-bupa---working-cancer-supporting-employees-living-cancer-return-work>
5. McCabe Centre for Law & Cancer, Cancer Council Victoria. (2013). Making the law work better for people affected by cancer. Melbourne: McCabe Centre for Law & Cancer.