

Scleroderma: more than skin deep

6,000

Scleroderma affects
6,000 Australians.¹



Scleroderma causes
hardening of skin and
failure of internal organs.¹



Women are 7 times more likely
to develop scleroderma than
men, but the condition can be
even more severe in men.¹



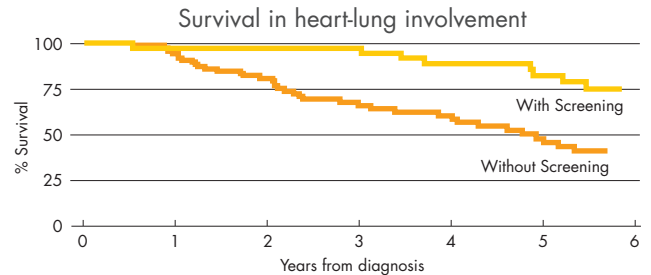
Scleroderma shortens life
expectancy, with 23 years of
life lost in women and 26 years
of life lost in men.²



Heart-lung involvement is
the major cause of premature
death in scleroderma.²



Scleroderma reduces quality of life and ability
to work. Individuals with scleroderma on
average retire 15 years before their healthy
population peers.^{3, 4}



Individuals with scleroderma who are
screened for heart-lung complications at
specialised clinics are treated earlier and
have better outcomes.⁵

\$64 M

Scleroderma is a costly condition, with
hospitalisations, emergency presentations,
medical and allied health consultations
costing around AUD \$64 million per year.⁶



\$44 M

An additional cost of around AUD \$44
million per year results from loss of income
due to reduced work capacity.⁶



Australia is at the forefront
of international research in
scleroderma – studies by the Australian
Scleroderma Interest Group (ASIG) have
led to better care and outcomes for
people living with scleroderma.⁷



Sunflowers are often used as
a symbol of scleroderma as
those affected often feel more
comfortable in warmth.

Publications of the Australian Scleroderma Interest Group

1. A systematic review of the epidemiology, disease characteristics and management of systemic sclerosis in Australian adults. *International J Rheum Dis* 2017; 20(11):1728-1750.
2. Early mortality in a multinational systemic sclerosis inception cohort. *Arthritis Rheumatol* 2017; 69(5):1067-1077.
3. Determinants of health-related quality of life in a multinational systemic sclerosis inception cohort. *Clin Exp Rheumatol* 2018; 36 (Suppl. 113).
4. Determinants of unemployment amongst Australian systemic sclerosis patients: results from a multicentre cohort study. *Clin Exp Rheumatol* 2016; 34 Suppl 100(5): 79-84.
5. Epidemiology and disease characteristics of systemic sclerosis-related pulmonary arterial hypertension: results from a real-life screening programme. *Arthritis Res Ther* 2017; 19(1):42.
6. Quantifying the direct public health care cost of systemic sclerosis: a comprehensive data linkage study. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2017; 96(48):e8503.
7. The Australian Scleroderma Interest Group and database: 10 years of screening to save lives. *Med J Aust* 2017; 206(5):229.