



## Background

# WA Cancer Plan 2020 – 2025

## *Implementation Update*

*October 2023*

The WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025 (the Cancer Plan) was launched in February 2020. The Cancer Plan provides direction for the state to achieve a well-coordinated, consumer focused cancer control system and to improve cancer outcomes for Western Australians. [Priorities for implementation](#) were established in December 2020.

This Communiqué provides stakeholders with quarterly updates on initiatives underway to implement the *WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025 Priorities for Implementation* and opportunities for engagement. Please share with interested parties.

## Consumer Information, Support, Transitional and Survivorship Care

### Underway

#### 2.6.1 Implement a stratified and coordinated approach to meet the information needs of those affected by cancer.

The detailed 'Community consultation outcomes' report for the 'Culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) cancer information needs for consumers and carers' project is available online. The project findings identified a range of cancer information resource needs, including the overarching theme to improve access and empower CaLD cancer consumers and carers to obtain cancer information that addresses their health and cultural needs.

The project findings support the development of consumer resources including checklists with supporting videos. In line with this finding, the Cancer Network has commenced the 'CaLD resource development' project and has engaged Cancer Council WA (CCWA) and Health Consumers' Council (WA) Inc. (HCC) for resource development.

The resources will cover different stages of the cancer journey and will be developed in Plain English before being translated into 6 languages. A range of stakeholders, including CaLD consumers and carers, CaLD community organisations, medical clinicians and general practitioners, will be consulted with to ensure the resources are clinically accurate and suit the needs of CaLD consumers and carers. The resources are to be finalised late 2024.

The 'Community consultation outcomes' report is available here:  
[www.health.wa.gov.au/~/-/media/Corp/Documents/Health-for/Health-Networks/Cancer/Cancer-fellowships/CaLD-Cancer-information-Community-Consultation-Outcomes.pdf](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/~/-/media/Corp/Documents/Health-for/Health-Networks/Cancer/Cancer-fellowships/CaLD-Cancer-information-Community-Consultation-Outcomes.pdf)

A summary of key findings is available here:

[www.health.wa.gov.au/~media/Corp/Documents/Health-for/Health-Networks/Cancer/Cancer-fellowships/CaLD-Cancer-information-Summary.pdf](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/~media/Corp/Documents/Health-for/Health-Networks/Cancer/Cancer-fellowships/CaLD-Cancer-information-Summary.pdf)

### 3.4.1 Develop cancer specific HealthPathways for General Practitioners in conjunction with consumers and clinicians, especially for cancer survivorship and psychosocial care.

Cancer Network WA (CNWA) are in consultation with WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) to expand the existing GP HealthPathways to include cancer pathways. This project will develop cancer related HealthPathways to guide GPs providing care to patients diagnosed with, being treated for, and following treatment of cancer. The funding provided will be used to support the hiring of 1 x GP Clinical Editor, a dedicated Coordinator and support a project working group of Subject Matter Experts in developing the content.

### 3.4.2 Establish a hub of survivorship expertise to support consumers with complex health care needs and health care professionals as a part of a stratified approach to provision of information and supportive care.

CNWA has provided funding for a research project, being led by Professor Paul Cohen at King Edward Memorial Hospital, to assess the satisfaction of low-risk endometrial cancer patients with a Survivorship Care Plan 12 months after discharge from the gynaecologic oncology outpatient clinic. This cross-sectional mixed method study will utilise patient interviews, targeting patient surveys and a GP focus group. The research hopes to assess the utility of the Survivorship Care Plan from the perspective of primary care providers, as well as provide further insight into the experience of transition to survivorship for patients.

## Cancer Data

### Underway

#### 4.6.1 Identify challenges to accessing cancer research data and ways these can be overcome.

CNWA have awarded a research grant to the Department of Gastroenterology at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital to investigate the clinical implications and long-term outcomes of patients diagnosed with high risk T1a and all T1b cancers managed in Australia and New Zealand via endoscopic local excision over the last 12 years.

The research will allow for future patients with similar results to have a clear idea of the risk for residual cancer and help them make more informed decisions on whether more invasive surgery is warranted. This will improve outcomes through further contribution to evidence-based care and will also empower patients to make well-informed decisions around their own treatment.

The grant was awarded late 2022, with an estimated project completion date of December 2024.

### 5.4.1 Develop a timely data collection for cancer stage at diagnosis.

CNWA in partnership with the WA Cancer Registry (WACR) and Curtin University are undertaking a Cancer Staging Data project with a focus on cancer staging data collection and analysis across selected tumour streams. The project is creating a method to implement a stage data field in WA's population-based cancer registry that can be used to inform decision-making for resource planning. This project is now in its third year.

## Multidisciplinary Teams and Optimal Care Pathways

### Underway

#### 2.8.1 Establish a multidisciplinary adult clinical and monitoring service for people identified at increased risk of inherited cancers.

CNWA is providing research funding to a project team at Genetics Services of WA (GSWA) to undertake the 'CARES Study: Cancer pRedisposition, the Experience of Surveillance and living with a rare cancer predisposition syndrome (CPS) in Western Australia'.

This study will contact 250 patients with an identified CPS from a pre-existing database held at GSWA and ask them to complete a semi-structured questionnaire about surveillance in WA. Patients will also have the opportunity to attend a semi-structured interview to explore the experiences in detail.

The study hopes to understand the experience of individuals living with a CPS in Western Australia and their healthcare providers, relating to access to the recommended surveillance and management, and identify barriers and enablers affecting ability to access surveillance and other preventive care (e.g., risk reducing surgery).

## Other News

### Updated Multicultural Health Services Directory

The Cultural Diversity Unit at the Department of Health have released an online version of the Multicultural Health Services Directory. The online inventory contains information on campaigns, programs and services that support or are inclusive of the health and wellbeing needs of Western Australians of CaLD backgrounds. The directory can be searched according to 'Topic' or 'Agency' and links to multicultural resources are also provided where relevant.

The directory can be accessed here: [www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/J\\_M/Multicultural-resources-for-health-professionals/Multicultural-health-services-directory](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/J_M/Multicultural-resources-for-health-professionals/Multicultural-health-services-directory).

### WA Aboriginal Cancer Collaborative Meeting

Aboriginal cancer survivors, carers and health professionals from around WA were invited to attend the WA Aboriginal Cancer collaborative meeting, either in person or via Teams, to hear latest cancer statistics presented by Richard Trevithick from the WA Cancer Registry. Discussion held after the presentation indicated good engagement and a wish for more 'plain English' data. Several other cancer Collaborative consultants also attended and provided information around potential treatments for a wide range of cancers. One cancer survivor stated in the evaluation, "This is the first time since I was diagnosed six

years ago, that I actually understand why this was the only treatment option. My surgeon didn't explain anything, just told me what was going to happen."

## National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Plan

Aboriginal cancer consumers, survivors, carers and other stakeholders around WA were invited to provide input into the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Plan. To accommodate attendees, two sessions were held in person and via Teams. It is important that 'grassroots' consumers and stakeholders are heard when developing these plans, especially as all too often, WA is overlooked by National initiatives. Some were unaware of the Optimal Care Pathway prior to attending the session.

The Aboriginal Health Cancer Collaborative Lead continues to include Aboriginal people in information and discussion about their cancer needs. The two-way learning is invaluable to both consumers and health professionals in the cancer space. This will be an ongoing initiative of the Aboriginal Health Cancer Collaborative.

For further information contact Leanne Pilkington ([leanne.pilkington@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:leanne.pilkington@health.wa.gov.au))

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If you would like to include information in this Communiqué regarding your initiatives to implement the *WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025 Priorities for Implementation*, please contact the WA Department of Health's Cancer Network via email to [cancernetwork@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:cancernetwork@health.wa.gov.au).

Contributors to this edition include the Department of Health's Cancer Network and Cancer Network WA (CNWA).

### Further information

Please visit the WA Cancer Plan website:

[ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/U\\_Z/WA-Cancer-Plan](http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/U_Z/WA-Cancer-Plan)

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