



# *WA Cancer Plan 2020 – 2025*

## *Implementation Update*

*July 2022*

### Background

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 'Information Needs for Consumers' project commenced in July 2021. The Understanding Consumer's Needs for Cancer Information review has now been completed. This review was led by the Cancer and Palliative Care Research and Evaluation Unit (CaPCREU) in collaboration with a Project Working Group (PWG) convened by the Department of Health, Health Networks. The review comprised of a consumer survey and desktop analysis of cancer information available locally, nationally and internationally. One major finding of the review revealed a need to further investigate informational needs for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) consumers.

In response to the CaPCREU report, the Cancer Network have awarded five community organisation grants to carry out community consultations with CaLD consumers and carers on their cancer information needs. The successful grant recipients were Ethnic Communities Council WA, Multicultural Services Centre WA, Umbrella Inc, ISHAR Multicultural Women's Health Services Inc and Health Consumers Council. Outcomes are expected in late 2022.



### 5.11.2 Establish an Aboriginal Cancer Nurse Coordinator to coordinate care for Aboriginal people with complex cancer care needs.

The WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network Clinical Implementation Unit (WACPCN CIU) continue to recruit for an Aboriginal Clinical Nurse Consultant. This position will support the existing cancer specific nurses and focus on Aboriginal people with cancer, helping address barriers to care and improving outcomes for Indigenous patients. Interest in the role has been limited, please email the [Coordinator of Nursing](#) if you would like to learn more.

## Cancer Data

### Underway

#### 3.8.1 Develop and roll-out an annual PREMS collection for those affected by cancer using internationally recognised and consumer endorsed measures.

WACPCN CIU awarded a contract to the University of Western Australia in 2021 to deliver a Patient Experience Survey to all patients diagnosed with cancer in Western Australia in 2019. The survey is now closed and analyses on the data has commenced. A final report with the findings will be used to better understand the cancer patient journey and inform future planning of cancer services. Enquiries can be directed to WACPCN CIU at [wacpcn@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:wacpcn@health.wa.gov.au).

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

Curtin University and WA Cancer Registry have completed the first year of development and implementation of cancer stage at diagnosis and funding has been approved for an additional year. A rapid scoping review of staging methodologies used by population-based registries is currently in review for publication. The project has completed a preliminary extraction of colorectal and breast cancer staging details utilising natural language processing with encouraging results that will be available later this year. Further, a predictive tumour group classification using machine learning has also been implemented and is currently being deployed into the Cancer Registry Information System software with support from Health Support Services. Staging data collected will be added to the core WA Cancer Registry dataset and work is in progress to improve dissemination for use where aligned with WA Cancer Registry legislation.

### 5.8.1 Improve the timely sharing of Aboriginal cancer data for research that has direct benefits for Aboriginal people.

WACPCN CIU have awarded a research grant to a project team at Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research who are undertaking a patient tumour demographics, biology, management and outcome study for Indigenous patients with head and neck cancer in Western Australia. This project seeks to develop and implement a specific head and neck cancer database which will record: patient and tumour demographics; co-morbidities; anatomical and pathological sub-type distributions; treatments offered, accepted and completed for early and advanced cases; and relapse-free and overall survival between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in WA. The data recorded in this database will allow research to ascertain the relative contributions of remoteness, stage, tumour sub-type, risk factors and co-morbidities to outcome, providing further research to be undertaken to assess adequacy of treatment by ancestry.

WACPCN CIU have also awarded a grant to a research team at the University of Western Australia investigating and addressing inequalities facing West Australians with bladder cancer. This project seeks to identify disparities in bladder cancer outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous patients in WA through the development of a specific bladder cancer database. This database will allow both the study of the impact of basic demographic factors on outcomes, as well as facilitate more complex future studies incorporating treatment parameters and comorbidities. Short term goals of the project seek to ascertain the relative contributions of Aboriginal status, remoteness, gender, and stage of tumour to outcome. Longer-term impacts of this project will be improving cancer staging information via the development of the database and assist with the production of better educational materials to address identified differences in therapy update and completion.

## Other News



### Cancer Education Course for Aboriginal Health Professionals – Applications Open

The Aboriginal Health Council of WA is working in partnership with Cancer Council WA to deliver a five-day [Cancer Education Course for Aboriginal Health Professionals](#). This nationally accredited cancer education program aims to better equip health professionals with the knowledge, skills and confidence to support community members on their cancer journey.

Participants will receive a nationally accredited certificate on course completion - HLTAHW035 Provide Information and support around cancer. Cost is FREE with limited support for accommodation and travel available.

### Key dates

- Monday 15 August – Friday 19 August 2022: Metro Perth (Registrations close 5 pm Friday 15 July, 2022)
- Monday 3 October – 7 October 2022 – Kimberley Broome (Registrations close 5.00pm Friday 2nd September, 2022)

For more information please contact Michelle de la Haye on (08) 9227 1631 or email [Michelle.delaHaye@ahcwa.org](mailto:Michelle.delaHaye@ahcwa.org)

### WACPCN CIU Supports Thyroid Cancer Study for Better Treatments and Outcomes

The West Australian Endocrine Surgeons Inc (WAES) were the successful recipient of a grant from WACPCN CIU to fund a Tall Cell Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma (TCPTC) study. This study will be a retrospective review of all TCPTCs treated by the WAES from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2020. The primary aim of this study is to review TCPTC treated to determine whether the rates of recurrence is different to that of the classical Papillary Thyroid Carcinomas. This research will lead to improvements in the accuracy and standardisation of reporting and interpretation of clinical outcomes, reducing inefficiency.

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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, WACPCN CIU and the WA Cancer Registry.

### Further Information

Please visit the WA Cancer Plan website:

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

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