



WA Cancer Plan 2020 – 2025 *Implementation Update*

June 2023

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

Completed

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

An Aboriginal Cancer Nurse Coordinator position was formally created at Cancer Network WA (CNWA), and the successful applicant, Deborah Jacobs, was appointed in January 2023. Deborah is a Noongar and Boodja bloodline descendant. Prior to joining CNWA, Deborah previously held the role of Principal Aboriginal Nursing & Midwifery Advisor at the Office of the Chief Nursing Midwifery Office.

Underway

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

As part of the 'Culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) cancer information needs for consumers and carers' project, the Cancer Network at the Department of Health partnered with 5 community organisations to hold consultation sessions with CaLD consumers and carers affected by cancer. These community organisations were Ethnic Communities Council WA, Health Consumers' Council, Ishar Multicultural

Women's Health Centre, Multicultural Services Centre of WA and Umbrella Multicultural Community Care.

Over 175 CaLD consumers and carers affected by cancer across Western Australia were consulted. Key findings included how cancer information is accessed, how information is delivered, the types of information that are important to CaLD communities and understanding the role and influence of culture to address information needs. A report with detailed outcome findings will be available online soon.

The Cancer Network, WA Department of Health, was recently recognised for their contribution toward identifying CaLD consumers and carers' cancer information needs at the 2023 WA Multicultural Awards. The awards celebrate the champions of multiculturalism in WA and recognise individuals and organisations who have made a positive contribution to multiculturalism in WA.

The Cancer Network received the Public Sector Award, which recognises a State Government Agency that has successfully achieved positive outcomes through successful implementation of the Western Australian Multicultural Policy Framework.

More information on the award can be found here: www.omi.wa.gov.au/events-and-training/western-australian-multicultural-awards/western-australian-multicultural-awards-winners.

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

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 (SMEs) 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 study led by Professor Paul Cohen at King Edward Memorial Hospital to undertake a research project that assesses 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

Completed

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

CNWA commissioned the Cancer and Palliative Care Research and Evaluation Unit (CAPCREU) at the University of Western Australia (UWA) to conduct a Cancer Patient Experience Survey (CaPES) as part of an engagement strategy recognising patient experience as one pillar of health sustainability. The project aimed to identify areas in cancer care that are important to patients, through determining health services gaps and variations in patient experience across the cancer journey in a WA specific context. A final report was presented in late 2022 and dissemination of these findings will occur in 2023. The findings were very positive about cancer care in WA.

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

A research project was embarked by CNWA in conjunction with a team at UWA to gain insight about Aboriginal cancer patients' experiences of their cancer journey; extending to and including cancer patient's families and/or carers and outline key themes and current services needs to inform the development of an Aboriginal Patient Navigator model. Research was concluded with a final report presented late 2022. Abstracts and publications from this research have commenced, with a co-authored article available to read here: pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36611574/.

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, enabling future patients with similar results to have a clear idea of risk for residual cancer and therefore 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) are commencing the third year of a Cancer Staging Data project with Curtin University to undertake cancer staging collection and analysis across selected tumour streams. The project is collecting baseline staging data across 3 tumour streams (melanoma, colorectal and breast cancers) and developing natural language processing and machine learning algorithms to support the long-term sustainability of data collection. The team are currently planning Pathology Roadshow presentations to share current outcomes and collaboratively discuss challenges with major pathology providers.

It is anticipated that staging data collected thus far will be incorporated into the standard WA Cancer Registry output dataset in the coming months for monitoring, reporting, and evaluation purposes.

Research investigating how cancer stage at diagnosis is collected in population-based cancer registries was recently published. This research has garnered national interest and ideas developed by the project team are informing the early consideration and development of a national framework for population-based staging collection. The journal article can be read here:

www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frhs.2023.1039266/full.

Priority 4, Strategy 1: Commission research that addresses variations in cancer outcomes.

International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership update

The International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership (ICBP) has now published 66 publications since its inception in 2009. Last year, the partnership received significant coverage in the media for the journal article, *Risk factors and prognostic implications of diagnosis of cancer within 30 days after an emergency hospital admission (emergency presentation): an International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership (ICBP) population-based study*. The journal article can be read here: [www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045\(22\)00127-9/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045(22)00127-9/fulltext).

The journal article, *Exploring the link between cancer policies and cancer survival: a comparison of International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership countries*, also received significant attention. The journal article can be read here: [www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanonc/PIIS1470-2045\(22\)00450-8.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanonc/PIIS1470-2045(22)00450-8.pdf).

The ICBP management team have recently focused on knowledge mobilisation efforts through reports and presentations and engaging new partners to showcase ICBP evidence and insight. They have also been supporting The Daffodil Centre and International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to progress work on the impact of COVID-19 on cancer services.

In October 2022, the ICBP were able to host an in-person networking event during the World Cancer Congress in Geneva. In addition, they were also able to showcase work from across the partnership with an ICBP researcher's abstract shortlisted and several other presentations during the congress

The conference was also an opportunity for ICBP to engage with a wider group of stakeholders through networks, including cancer intelligence and data infrastructure, inequalities, lung cancer screening and oesophageal. The engagement in these topics was high quality and provides inputs into Phase 3 of the partnership work.

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 and will 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

National Lung Cancer Screening Program

On 2 May 2023, the federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler announced a National Lung Cancer Screening Program to detect lung cancer early. The program will start screening by July 2025 and will target high-risk individuals to detect lung cancer in its early stages to increase the likelihood of successful treatment and improve lung cancer outcomes.

For more information, visit: www.canceraustralia.gov.au/about-us/lung-cancer-screening.

New radiation oncology facility for Albany

The Premier, the Hon Mark McGowan MLA and Minister for Health and Mental Health, the Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, recently opened a new radiation oncology facility in Albany. The \$13.1 million facility will provide patients with access to specialised cancer treatment equipment which previously would have required an 830km round trip to Perth, or a 670km round trip to Bunbury. The service will offer treatment for cancers including prostate, breast, lung and colorectal cancers, as well as palliative treatments for symptom control.

For more information, visit:

www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2023/03/Treatment-options-close-to-home-for-Albany-cancer-patients.aspx

New counselling service for culturally and linguistically diverse people

Life Without Barriers have launched a new counselling service for CaLD people. It is a free mental health service that provides short term, culturally sensitive and evidence-based counselling for people from CaLD backgrounds. The service is funded by the WA Primary Health Alliance.

For more information, visit: www.lwb.org.au/services/mental-health/culturally-diverse-psychological-service/.

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.

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

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