



WA Cancer Plan 2020 – 2025

Implementation Update

October 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.

As part of the 'Information Needs for Consumers Project,' the Cancer Network has partnered with five community organisations to deliver consultation sessions with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities. These community organisations are Ethnic Communities Council WA, Multicultural Services Centre WA, Umbrella Inc, Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services Inc and Health Consumers' Council.

Community consultations for the CaLD Cancer Information Needs for Consumers and Carers has now been completed. Preliminary findings has shown the project has successfully engaged with over 150 CaLD cancer consumers and carers across Western Australia. Final reports and outcomes are expected to be delivered late 2022.

Cancer Data

Underway

5.4.2 Develop a state-wide cancer data strategy.

The Cancer Network has commenced the development of the WA Cancer Data Strategy. The WA Cancer Data Strategy was identified as a priority for implementation as part of the WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025.

The development of a WA Cancer Data Strategy will enable the WA health system to have a sustainable approach to cancer data infrastructure, data collections, data analysis and utility that is fit for purpose and is used to inform the delivery of safe, equitable and values-based cancer care.

A project plan and engagement plan have been developed and a project working group established. A current state analysis, literature review and stakeholder engagement are currently underway. A gap and option analysis as well as a second round of stakeholder consultation is expected to commence early 2023.

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

The preliminary analysis of a large cohort of Aboriginal patients with head and neck cancer, funded by the WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network, is almost completed. A successful application has been made for a similar study in Aboriginal patients with lung cancer. When this research is completed, it is hoped that the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) advisory process is expanded to benefit Aboriginal patients with these cancers. See below for an update on the MDT advisory process.

State-wide Governance and Workforce

Underway

2.9.8 Seek accreditation of genomic sequencing panel tests for profiling of cancer patients.

For the first time in Western Australia, tumour tissue testing for breast cancer gene mutations (BRCA1 and BRCA2) for patients with malignant ovarian tumours has begun. This testing will determine patients' eligibility to receive poly-ADP ribose polymerase (PARP) inhibitor therapy, which was recently added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). PARP inhibitors treat cancer by preventing cancer cells from repairing, causing the cell to die and reducing tumour growth.

More than 50% of women with advanced malignant ovarian tumours have Homologous Recombination Deficiency (HRD), the inability to repair double strand breaks in DNA, which increase the likelihood of breast cancer gene mutations. Testing of tumour samples also increases the likelihood to detect both somatic and germline mutations than blood samples only.

Olaparib, a PARP inhibitor, is now listed on the PBS for patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) that carry BRCA1 or BRCA2 alterations. A Victorian clinical trial found that men with mCRPC carrying at least one alteration in BRCA1, BRCA2, or ATM and whose disease had progressed during previous treatment, had a significantly longer duration of survival after receiving olaparib than those who received other medications (enzalutamide or abiraterone).

The genomic capacity recently built by the PathWest Community Health Hospital Program has enabled immediate implementation of such clinical trials and has paved a way for targeted therapy and personalised medicine for WA prostate and ovarian cancer patients.

Multidisciplinary Teams and Optimal Care Pathways

Underway

2.3.3 Pilot a multidisciplinary team meeting for Aboriginal people with breast cancer in the Perth metropolitan area and if successful expand to other cancer types.

The project team have set out to establish a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) advisory service that reviews and provides a tailored management plan for every Aboriginal person in Western Australia (WA) diagnosed with breast cancer. This allows for recent discoveries in the biology and treatment patterns for breast cancers in Aboriginal people to be used to provide the best possible treatment for each person.

A referral pathway has been developed where all Aboriginal cases identified by Pathwest are forwarded to an Aboriginal breast cancer co-ordinator. The co-ordinator then develops a treatment plan and provides it to the patient's local treatment team and Aboriginal Health Officer. After the initial 6 months, each patient is followed up with and outcomes for the patients will be reviewed every two years.

A database has been created for MDTs for the collection of patient case details and subsequent analysis. The project team are currently in the process of identifying a candidate for the Aboriginal breast cancer coordinator role.

2.9.1 Develop a framework for referral for molecular testing for public oncology patients.

Since the commencement of the PathWest Anatomical Pathology Community Health Hospital Program (CHHP), there was a 55% increase in the number of external referrals received at Molecular Anatomical Pathology over the past year. This also includes referrals from the Garvan Institute in NSW and the Linear Clinical Research in Perth for alignment of patients with clinical trials and are part of the National Australian Genomic Cancer Medicine Program.

Extension and expansion of this study is currently underway, with WA likely to undertake Comprehensive Genomic Profiling (CGP) analysis for an additional 1000 WA cancer patients over the next 2 years. Because of the success of the CHHP project, the project team are on track to meet this goal and to be a testing site or node for somatic cancer CGP for the whole state.

5.3.1 Multidisciplinary team meeting software.

The CanMAP team continue to progress the delivery of a suitable cancer multidisciplinary team meeting software. The Request for Information (RFI) was published on Tenders WA on 11 August and closed on the 7 September 2022 with several high-quality responses.

An internal evaluation of responses is currently under way and will involve a review by the CanMAP team and clinical stakeholders including the MDMS Project Working Group. The outcome of this will lead to a collaborative evaluation forming recommendations, which will inform the subsequent tender process.

Work has also been undertaken to explore staffing resource and funding of cancer MDMs across Australia. This work will inform a paper to the Health Service Providers' Chief Executives and Health Department's Health Executive Committee (HEC) meeting in October.

Other News

Funding to improve critical diagnostic equipment for West Australians

The Minister for Health and Mental Health, the Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, recently announced that work has commenced on the \$31.94 million Radiopharmaceutical Production and Development (RAPID) Laboratories and Cyclotron Project at QEII Medical Centre (QEIIIMC).

The project includes the establishment of state-of-the-art laboratories as well as a second cyclotron machine to improve the supply of radiopharmaceutical products for patients and medical research in Western Australia. The project is expected to be completed in the next 12 months.

For more information:

www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2022/09/Improving-critical-cancer-diagnostic-equipment-for-Western-Australians.aspx.

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, 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

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