



# *WA Cancer Plan 2020 – 2025*

## *Implementation Update*

April 2024

### 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.

Following on from the findings of the [‘Culturally and linguistically diverse \(CaLD\) cancer information needs for consumers and carers’ project](#), the Cancer Network team at the WA Department of Health has commenced the ‘CaLD resource development’ project and has engaged Cancer Council WA (CCWA) and Health Consumers’ Council (WA) Inc. (HCC) to develop the resources.

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.

### Cancer Data

#### Underway

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

Cancer Network WA (CNWA), in partnership with the WA Cancer Registry and Curtin University, have been working on the Cancer Staging Data project for almost 3 years.

This project aims to develop strategies to facilitate the routine collection of cancer staging data in Western Australia.

The manual collection of 2019 staging data has been completed for breast, colorectal and melanoma tumour streams. This data has been used to train Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning algorithms that are designed to determine cancer. The project team are currently developing a plan to translate a combination of manual and automated staging into the workflow for the Cancer Registry.

The team also started working on a lung cancer stream in November 2023 and are investigating the feasibility of staging lung cancer cases using the data that is currently routinely reported to the Cancer Registry.

The pathology roadshow, presented to the 4 major pathology laboratories in Western Australia reporting cancer notifications to the Cancer Registry, was completed in the second half of 2023. The overarching aim of these presentations were to work with each pathology laboratory to improve the reporting of information that allows cancer cases to be staged by NLP algorithms. An evaluation of the impact of this roadshow is planned.

## Other news

### Do you want to be featured in the next Communiqué?

The Communiqué provides stakeholders with quarterly updates on initiatives underway to implement the [WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025 Priorities for Implementation](#) and opportunities for engagement.

We are looking for new contributions to share with stakeholders across the WA cancer control sector. If you would like to share your initiative or news related to the WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025, please email the WA Department of Health Cancer Network at [cancernetwork@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:cancernetwork@health.wa.gov.au).

### Australian Comprehensive Cancer Network Innovations Showcase

The Australian Comprehensive Cancer Network (ACCN) Innovations Showcase will be held on 21 May 2024 in Sydney. The showcase will bring together health professionals, researchers, policymakers, and other organisations involved in cancer control to showcase examples of innovative cancer networking and care from across Australia and the world.

The event is free and there is also the option to attend online. More information on the event can be found here: [www.canceraustralia.gov.au/key-initiatives/innovations-showcase-register](http://www.canceraustralia.gov.au/key-initiatives/innovations-showcase-register).

### Cancer Network WA symposium

Cancer Network WA, in collaboration with the WA Cancer Oncology Group at CCWA, is hosting a one-day symposium on 30 May 2024.

The symposium will reflect on and recognise system achievements that support the WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025. To attend, please register here: [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/cancer-network-forum-tickets-875794042557?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/cancer-network-forum-tickets-875794042557?aff=oddtcreator)

## World Indigenous Cancer Conference 2024

Staff from several Hospital Service Providers (HSPs) recently attended the third World Indigenous Cancer Conference (WICC) 2024 in Melbourne on 18 – 20 March 2024.

The theme of the conference was 'Process, Progress, Power' and identified international research priorities, fostered new collaboration, enhanced capacity and shared knowledge and information about Indigenous people living with cancer on a global scale.

Professor Gail Garvey, a proud Kamilaroi woman, an NHMRC Research Leadership Fellow, and Professor of Indigenous Health Research in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Queensland, gave a dynamic panel presentation on raising awareness among leading decision-makers to ensure cancer is a global health priority, including Indigenous cancer status, and advocating for positive change.

More information on the conference can be found here: [www.wicc2024.com/](http://www.wicc2024.com/).



Photo: Peggy Briggs (WACHS), Gail Garvey (University of Queensland), Cherralee Clarke (WACHS), Deborah McAdams (WACHS), Deborah Jacobs (NMHS/CNWA) and Leanne Pilkington (SMHS) at the conference.

## WA Cancer Fellowships 2025

Applications for the 2025 round of the **WA Cancer Fellowships** are now open.

The WA Cancer Fellowships program (previously the WACPCN Cancer Fellowships) is designed to assist **medical practitioners** to expand their experience and skills to enable improved health outcomes for cancer patients in WA.

Applicants may apply for either the **research** or **training stream**.

Applications close **1:00PM AWST, Monday 27 May 2024**. Applications must be submitted by the due date through [MedJobsWA](#) (Reference No. 12106).

For further information, please refer to the WA Cancer Fellowships website at: [www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/U\\_Z/WA-Cancer-Fellowships](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/U_Z/WA-Cancer-Fellowships).

## Australian Cancer Plan released

In November 2023, Cancer Australia launched the Australian Cancer Plan. The plan aims to improve prevention, screening, treatment, and management of all cancers for all people in Australia regardless of their background or where they live.

More information on the plan can be found here: [www.australiancancerplan.gov.au/](http://www.australiancancerplan.gov.au/).

## New funding for cancer nursing and navigation

The Commonwealth government is investing \$166 million to establish a new Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program. The program will ensure all people with cancer have access to high quality and culturally safe care, irrespective of their cancer type or location.

More information on the program can be found here: [www.health.gov.au/our-work/australian-cancer-nursing-and-navigation-program#cancer-patient-support-program](http://www.health.gov.au/our-work/australian-cancer-nursing-and-navigation-program#cancer-patient-support-program).

## \$2.52 million funding boost to support WA cancer researchers

CCWA have been announced as a recipient of the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund and will receive \$2.52 million over the next 3 years. The funding will allow CCWA to increase the amount of funding available to cancer researchers from \$120,000 to \$140,000, and to increase the number of projects funded from 7 to 12 per year.

More information on the funding can be found here: [cancerwa.asn.au/news/2-52-million-funding-boost-to-support-wa-cancer-researchers/](http://cancerwa.asn.au/news/2-52-million-funding-boost-to-support-wa-cancer-researchers/)

## Research funding opportunities

Several funding opportunities from the Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund are currently open for applications. The FHRI Fund aims to improve, through research and innovation, the health and prosperity of Western Australians, the sustainability of the health system and to advance the State's standing as a leader in research and innovation.

More information on current funding opportunities can be found here: [fhrifund.health.wa.gov.au/Funding/Current-opportunities](http://fhrifund.health.wa.gov.au/Funding/Current-opportunities).

## Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Cancer Council will be hosting the annual Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on 23 May 2024. The community event raises vital funds to support those impacted by cancer, and last year, over 25,000 morning tea hosts across Australia raised over \$14.3 million for people impacted by cancer.

More information on the event can be found here: [www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/](http://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/).

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

### **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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