



Cancer care closer to home

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WA Health has strongly invested in cancer care to support the 11,700 Western Australians diagnosed with cancer every year.

The recent opening of Fiona Stanley Hospital and St John of God Midland Public Hospital ensure patients have access to excellent cancer care no matter where they live in the metropolitan area.

These services are complemented by existing services at the Comprehensive Cancer Centre at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Royal Perth Hospital, Rockingham General Hospital and Joondalup Health Campus with specialist cancer care at Princess Margaret Hospital and King Edward Memorial Hospital.

Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) also houses a Comprehensive Cancer Centre which includes 22 consulting/interview rooms for cancer outpatients, a chemotherapy unit, a day therapy unit, a radiation oncology suite, radiation therapy planning and a breast assessment centre.

The Cancer Centre has been developed around a private courtyard and features a separate entrance and drop-off area to improve privacy and access for patients and their visitors.

What treatment can patients expect?

With 80 per cent of FSH's cancer patients treated as outpatients, the cancer service has taken a multidisciplinary approach to treatment. This means several specialties work together, including physicians, radiology, pathology, radiation, medical oncology, nursing, counselling, family support services, and allied health. Patients also have access to services such as physiotherapy, clinical psychology, occupational therapy, social work, pharmacy, dietetics and speech pathology, all in one location.



Patients receiving targeted radiation therapies benefit from greatly reduced waiting times and faster treatment with state-of-the-art equipment such as the latest in linear accelerator (linac) technology.

Four linac machines are now in operation at the hospital meaning many more patients can be seen in a day.

Image left: One of four Linac machines operating at Fiona Stanley Hospital

Breast cancer patient Donna House recently completed her radiation treatment at FSH.

“I didn’t expect to be treated any differently, but I was treated very well as a patient at Fiona Stanley Hospital. I cannot thank everyone enough for the care I have received here,” Donna said.

St John of God Midland Public Hospital’s Chemotherapy Unit has been a welcome addition to the eastern suburbs of Perth.

The Unit currently sees 13 patients a day with 105 patients already passing through its doors for nearly 500 treatments since opening in November.



Patient Leonard Roberts was admitted for surgery one week after the hospital was officially opened. His treatment will finish as the hospital celebrates its six-month anniversary.

Leonard drives himself from home to attend his treatment once a fortnight. “I enjoy coming here as everyone is friendly and it is close to home,” he said.

Image: Leonard Roberts receiving treatment at St John of God Midland Public Hospital.

Patient Jennifer Mailer also lives locally and her granddaughter drops her to the Unit for treatment. “I had my surgery here at St John of God Midland Public Hospital and it’s a big experience. I really don’t want to go through it again but it went brilliantly,” Jennifer said.

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital houses the Comprehensive Cancer Centre. This Centre works on a connected care model, where diagnosis, treatment planning and continued treatment all happen in the one building. This means a continuity of treatment for the 7,000 patients who make the 150,000 visits to the Centre each year.

What types of cancer are treated at the Comprehensive Cancer Centre?

“The Centre brings together the medical departments of Haematology, Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology,” haematologist, Professor David Joske said.



“They’re the departments that focus on treating cancer in its various forms.

“We also have room for areas such as the Canteen Youth Centre, clinical trials staff, and Solaris Care complementary therapy centre.

“It’s a beautiful space that functions really well and we know that patients and staff like the environment.”

Image: Haematologist Professor David Joske – Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

Patient Janenne Rupe is full of praise for the facility: “At the Comprehensive Cancer Centre, the minute you walk through the door you’ve got open space, friendly people, room to move – it’s so bright and sunny because you can actually see outside – it makes it a lovely place to be.”

A new specialist medical oncology service at **Royal Perth Hospital (RPH)** is providing breast and colorectal cancer patients with more streamlined care.

Cancer care will be provided closer to home for patients in the hospital’s catchment area, who will receive their oncological care following diagnosis and surgery at RPH.

All patients at RPH have access to a multidisciplinary team led by a cancer specialist.