

**August 2021**

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## Background

The WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025 (the Cancer Plan) was launched by the Minister for Health, the Hon. Roger Cook in February 2020. The Cancer Plan was designed to be realised by many organisations and individuals across Western Australia (WA) and provides direction for the state to achieve a well-coordinated, consumer focused cancer control system and to improve cancer outcomes for Western Australians. Following the Cancer Plan, [Priorities for implementation](#) were established in December 2020.

This Communique 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

Work has commenced to better understand what information consumers of cancer services require and how they prefer to receive it. This project is a collaboration between

the Department of Health's Cancer Network and UWA and will focus on delivering recommendations for solutions that will meet the needs of consumers across WA. The Project officially commenced in July 2021 with the first meeting of the Project Working Group (PWG). The PWG will continue to meet monthly to guide stakeholder consultation and deliverables. Outcomes are expected in early-2022. If you are interested in being involved in this initiative, please contact the [Cancer Network](#).

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## Complete

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

An Aboriginal Clinical Nurse Consultant position has been established at the WA Cancer & Palliative Care Network Clinical Implementation Unit (WACPCN CIU) to provide an oncology coordination service for Aboriginal people experiencing cancer. The position is designed to improve cancer outcomes and experiences for Aboriginal peoples and to strengthen and upskill the Aboriginal Health Workforce. Recruitment and appointment to the role is underway (related to WA Cancer Plan Priority 5, Strategy 11).

## 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

A Patient Experience Survey will be delivered to all Western Australians diagnosed with Cancer in 2019. The survey will use the *All.Can* validated tool and findings will be used to better understand the cancer patient journey and inform future planning of cancer services. The survey is an initiative of WACPCN CIU in partnership with UWA. Further information about *All.Can* can be found at <https://www.all-can.org/what-we-do/research/patient-survey/> (related to WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025 Priority 3, Strategy 8).

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

Work is underway to establish a 'stage of cancer at diagnosis' data collection across selected tumour streams through a partnership between the WA Cancer Registry, WACPCN CIU and Curtin University. This work aims to validate the methodology required to establish the data collection and to engage with key stakeholders across the health, academic, and non-government sectors to ensure information collected is fit for purpose, accurate, and aligned with national and international data classifications. Funding from the Commonwealth's Health Innovation Fund has also been secured to contribute towards establishment of the data collection.

The stage of cancer at diagnosis is the most significant risk factor determining cancer patients' prognosis and is critical in understanding early diagnosis, informing treatment and measuring whether variation in survival is due to earlier detection or improved treatment outcomes (related to WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025 Priority 5, Strategy 4).

## State-wide Governance and Workforce

### Complete

### 2.8.2 Provide a cancer nurse coordinator service to assist people who have a rare and/or inherited cancer and who have complex care needs to navigate the WA health system

A *Rare and Less Common Cancer Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC)* position has been established at the WACPCN CIU with a CNC having been appointed in January 2021. The CNC will provide an Oncology Coordination service for people diagnosed with a rare or less common cancer and who are not currently seen within existing tumour specific CNC services. The *Rare and Less Common Cancer CNC* has completed mapping the gaps for these patient cohorts and will commence the coordination service for people with complex care needs in August 2021 (related to WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025 Priority 2, Strategy 8).

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### 5.1.2 Develop pathways and define clear roles and responsibilities for resolution of statewide cancer-related issues

The Department of Health welcomes Dr Tom Ferguson to the position of Medical Advisor,

Cancer. Dr Ferguson will lead the newly formed WA Cancer Strategic Leadership Group with a co-chair arrangement with Dr Karen Taylor, A/Director of Nursing, WACPCN CIU.

The WACSLG will oversee implementation of the Cancer Plan and address cancer-related matters that cross organisational boundaries and that have state-wide impact. It will also consider ways to communicate the many activities underway across WA to implement the WA Cancer Plan and to assist with its evaluation and reporting. The inaugural meeting was held in August 2021. Further information will be available in coming weeks and can be found [here](#) (related to WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025 Priority 5, Strategy 1).

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## Underway

### 2.9.7 Establish requirement and mechanisms for clinician attendance at Molecular Tumour Board Meetings

A collaborative arrangement has been made between PathWest and the WACPCN CIU to support weekly Molecular Tumour Board (MTB) Meetings. The MTB reviews patient cases and provides oncology teams with treatment advice on cancers that are not responding to treatment (refractory cancers) and provides a summary of the complex genomic profiling in an interpretable and meaningful format (related to WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025 Priority 2, Strategy 9).

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### 5.11.3 Employ Cancer Leads to represent priority populations and consumers

Ms Leanne Pilkington, a proud Binjarep yorga from Nyoongar Nation has been appointed to the inaugural position of *Cancer Lead, Aboriginal Health*. Leanne brings to the role her extensive experience of working with Aboriginal people in the health, social and education sectors. Leanne works at the South Metropolitan Health Service Aboriginal Strategy Unit and is the Chair of Cancer Council WA's Aboriginal Advisory Group. Leanne has qualifications in Indigenous Research and Government. Leanne is seeking interest from people who would like to join an Aboriginal Cancer Collaborative. If you are interested please email the [Cancer Network](#). Further information regarding Cancer Leads can be found [here](#) (related to WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025 Priority 5, Strategy 11).

## Multidisciplinary Teams and Optimal Care Pathways

### Underway

#### 5.3.1 Purchase and roll-out across WA health system providers, a fit for purpose multidisciplinary team (MDT) meeting software system to better coordinate and facilitate cancer MDT meetings

Plans to purchase a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) software system to better coordinate and facilitate cancer MDT meetings across WA Health has begun. The Department of Health's Cancer Multidisciplinary Activity Program (CanMAP) is currently in the discovery phase of procurement. As part of this process, an assessment of WA's requirements will be completed by the end of 2021. If successful, this will see the implementation of a fit for purpose MDT software system in 2022 (related to WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025 Priority 5, Strategy 3).

### Evaluation and Reporting

If you would like to include information in this Communique 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, WA Cancer Registry, Department of Health's CanMap team and Department of Health's Office of Population Health Genomics unit.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of initiatives towards achieving the objectives of the *WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025* is planned for 2022.

### Further Information

Please visit the [WA Cancer Plan website](#)  
[cancernetwork@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:cancernetwork@health.wa.gov.au)

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