



# Media Release

## **New chronic disease service for Midwest, Gascoyne and Murchison regions**

11 April 2017

New integrated chronic disease services in the Midwest, Gascoyne and Murchison regions will improve care for individuals at risk of chronic disease.

The 2016 population health needs assessment revealed diabetes complications as a leading cause for people presenting to hospital emergency departments in the Midwest. The report revealed possible preventable hospitalisation rates for chronic conditions were 5.6 times higher for Aboriginal people compared with non-Aboriginal people from the Midwest.

The new services aim to reduce preventable hospitalisations.

WAPHA regional manager Jodie Green said the new services will improve the health of people who suffer from chronic diabetes, cardiology or respiratory conditions, particularly those in remote areas or people who are disadvantaged.

The new services will see teams of health professionals travel to remote areas to coordinate care and support individuals to manage their chronic conditions, with GPs remaining at the centre of their patient's care.

"The new services are a result of meaningful collaboration with GPs, our Regional Clinical Commissioning Committee and other key partners and stakeholders to ensure the needs of local communities within the Midwest, Gascoyne and Murchison regions are met," Ms Green said.

The new service teams will also coordinate and link the clients to the relevant telehealth services to ensure ongoing care is achieved for those living in the more remote towns of the region.

Member for Durack Melissa Price said the new chronic disease services will be a great addition for people in regional and rural WA.

"This is great news for people in the Midwest and Gascoyne regions," Ms Price said.

"Being able to manage your own health is very important, I'm pleased with this announcement for people living with chronic diseases."

The Panaceum Group has been contracted by the WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) to work with local allied health professionals to implement the new integrated chronic disease care service.

### **ENDS**

- WA Primary Health Alliance operates WA's three Primary Health Networks; Perth South, Perth North and Country WA.



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