

## A focus on supporting palliative care in a primary care setting

Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care (GCfAHPC) will allow more Australians, including older Australians, improved access to safe, quality palliative care at home and support end-of-life care systems and services in primary health care and community care. Initiatives under the program will make linkages across the sectors of aged care, primary care and palliative care to support access to services at the end-of-life, regardless of where someone lives.

GCfAHPC began as a pilot across 11 PHNs nationally and has now been expanded to all PHNs.

## Workforce support

WAPHA continues to support health professionals statewide to help meet the unique health needs of their local communities. This is made possible by offering quality improvement activities through HealthPathways, training events to meet primary care needs and providing palliative care information. WAPHA continues to share the most current WA Department of Health End of Life Program initiatives and resources with our community of general practice and primary health care service staff through HealthPathways and other communication channels.

If you are not already using HealthPathways in your practice or health service, you can register via the register now button at [wa.communityhealthpathways.org](http://wa.communityhealthpathways.org) or email [health.pathways@wapha.org.au](mailto:health.pathways@wapha.org.au)

## Where to next?

- Dementia Consumer Resources community consultation October 2022 - resources launching on My Community Directory by December 2022
- Aged Care and Dementia HealthPathways – review complete by early 2023
- Completion of a needs assessment for WAPHA's three PHNs relating to palliative care and implementation of GCfAHPC initiatives based on findings – expected early 2023
- Announcement of care finder program commissioned service providers late 2022 – care finder program commencing 1 January 2023
- Increasing use and availability of telehealth in RACFs equipment scoping underway with RACFs – establishment early 2023
- Consultation with GPs through the WAPHA GP special interest panel – care of the older person – ongoing

Further information is available at [wapha.org.au/stakeholders/community-projects-and-stories/aged-care-program](http://wapha.org.au/stakeholders/community-projects-and-stories/aged-care-program)

## How can I get involved?

Enquiries relating to the PHN Aged Care Program can be sent to [info@wapha.org.au](mailto:info@wapha.org.au) or subscribe to our Aged Care Connect Newsletter [news.wapha.org.au/subscribe](http://news.wapha.org.au/subscribe)

## Disclaimer

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## Our aged care health priorities



**Aged Care**

While the Australian health care system is one of the best in the world, it can be difficult to access for a variety of reasons. Where someone is born, where they live, how much money they earn, and lack of service availability or suitability, can all impact their health.

It is therefore vital for people to get the care they need, closer to home, to avoid using hospitals and specialists unnecessarily and experience better health outcomes and quality of life.

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care to achieve this by:

- Supporting general practice to deliver the highest quality patient care.
- Funding local primary health care services based on the needs of the community.
- Connecting local services to simplify the health care system.

Since establishment in 2015, WAPHA has invested over half a billion dollars in primary health care services across Western Australia.



## Improving and connecting our primary care and aged care services

Many older Australians are now living longer and healthier lives, however there are many who lack appropriate access to primary care, opportunities for social interaction and economic engagement within their communities. In 2021, the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care allocated funding to Primary Health Networks (PHNs) under the \$18.3 billion aged care reform package to address pillar one (Home Care) and pillar three (Residential Aged Care Quality and Safety) reform priorities. The aged care reform plan, based on five pillars over five years (legislated by introducing a new Aged Care Act), is a government response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

As operator of the three PHNs in Western Australia, WAPHA is supporting access to primary care and aged care services for older Australians through designing, commissioning, and delivering nine new PHN Aged Care Program activities.

These activities will support a coordinated aged care system, connecting the WA community to quality aged care services and supports that contribute to healthy ageing in place.

**Greater Choice for at Home Palliative Care (GCfAHPC) Program** This will improve awareness of local palliative care options and improve coordination of care across the aged care, primary care and palliative care sectors

**Supporting residential aged care facilities (RACFs) to increase use and availability of telehealth** This will enable timely access to specialist telehealth for older Australians receiving care in RACFs through delivering equipment and training for RACF staff

**Enhancing out-of-hours support for RACFs** This will be delivered through guiding and implementing after-hours plans and educating RACF staff on appropriate healthcare planning for residents

**Commissioning early intervention initiatives** This will support healthy ageing and ongoing management of chronic conditions for older Australians by better connecting them to the right psychosocial, health and welfare supports in the community

**Commissioning face-to-face care finders** This will support older Australians to interact with My Aged Care to find appropriate aged care supports and other services in their community

**Enhancing Aged Care HealthPathways** This will be utilised by health professionals at the point of care to provide advice, referrals and connections into local health and support services for patients

**Updating and implementing new Dementia HealthPathways** This will be utilised by health professionals at the point of care, providing clinical guidance to assist with early diagnosis and enhanced care planning support for people living with dementia, their carers and families

**Identifying and enhancing Dementia Consumer Pathway Resources** This will be delivered in collaboration with Dementia Australia and dementia advocates to build local knowledge of services and supports on dementia housed on My Community Directory ([www.mycommunitydirectory.com.au/Western\\_Australia](http://www.mycommunitydirectory.com.au/Western_Australia))

**Optimising Primary Care Coordination for People Living in RACFs (National Partnership Agreement)** This WA Department of Health funded initiative will resource one dedicated clinical coordinator role within three WA RACFs through a grant application process. The role will liaise with GPs, co-ordinate case conferencing and engage GPs in quality improvement