

*WA Primary Health Alliance acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners and Elders of this country and recognises the significant importance of their cultural heritage, values and beliefs and how these contribute to the positive health and wellbeing of the whole community.*



## **Service Provider Connect #78 - 10 August 2022**

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- Digital Health Summit 2022 Series.
- Aboriginal Patient Advocacy Training

### **Access to previous editions**

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## **Dear Commissioned Service Provider**

As much of the information contained in this month's Provider Connect newsletter can attest, there is a lot happening across the sector and our communities. Winter Solstice has come and gone, and we are well into the second half of 2022.

Over the next few weeks and months we will bring together our service provider panel, continue progressive implementation of the performance management framework across our commissioned programs of activity, and will be procuring/commissioning activities across mental health and aged care.

Thank you for the work of your organisation and its many committed and passionate staff – the support and expertise you provide to members of your communities each and every day is making a difference.

Regards,

Mark Cockayne  
General Manager Commissioned Services

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## COVID-19 resources and information

### QUICK LINKS to the latest WA Health COVID-19 data and guidance

WA Health COVID-19 data and surveillance links:

- [WA COVID-19 daily media releases](#)
- [WA Health COVID-19 Weekly surveillance report](#)
- [WA COVID-19 Cases Dashboard](#)
- [WA Government COVID-19: Vaccine Dashboard](#)

WA Government guidance:

- WA Health [COVID-19 information for health professionals](#)
- WA Health [COVID-19 information for aged care and community care providers](#)

WA Government [COVID-19: What you can and can't do](#)

COVID-19 and influenza (flu) video series for healthcare providers

The Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS), in conjunction with Professor Chris Blyth (Infectious Disease Physician), have developed the 'Talking COVID and Flu' short video series for healthcare providers, to facilitate discussions surrounding influenza and COVID-19.

- [How bad is the flu this year?](#) (1min44sec)
- [Is Omicron as transmissible as reported?](#) (60sec)
- [How are the flu and COVID different?](#) (53sec)
- [Getting your flu vaccination after having COVID](#) (51sec)
- [Understanding immunity and cross infection](#) (2min3sec), including:
  - Can you be reinfected with COVID?
  - Can you be infected with COVID and flu at the same time?
  - If you have had COVID are you more immune to the flu?
- [Are public health and safety measures still necessary?](#) (2min4sec)
- [What is long COVID and how do you prevent it?](#) (1min50sec)
- [Vaccine safety and side effects](#) (COVID and flu vaccines) (2min4sec)

### ATAGI recommendations on COVID-19 vaccine use in children aged 6 months to under 5 years

COVID-19 vaccination is now recommended by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) for children aged 6 months to under 5 years with severe immunocompromise, disability, and those who have complex and/or multiple health conditions which increase the risk of severe COVID-19.

These include children with the following or similar conditions:

The recommendation is for two primary doses, except for those with severe immunocompromise who require three primary doses. The recommended interval between each dose is 8 weeks.  
More information is available [here](#).

## Latest ABS COVID-19 Mortality in Australia report released

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has released its [COVID-19 Mortality in Australia: Deaths Registered until 30 June 2022](#) report.

To 30 June 2022, of the 8219 deaths reported to the ABS, COVID-19 was found to be the cause of death for 7057 people.

Men had the highest number of deaths from COVID-19 in every age group.

People aged 80 to 89 were most likely to die from COVID-19 in Australia.

Chronic cardiac conditions were the most common comorbidity, followed by dementia and diabetes.

Read [more](#)

## TGA and rapid antigen tests

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised that four rapid antigen test products it recently cancelled was not due to a failure to detect the Omicron COVID-19 variant.

One test product was cancelled due to data requirements and the other three were cancelled by the suppliers who decided not to provide these products.

All rapid antigen tests available for sale in Australia, and those being distributed via the WA Government's free RAT program, are safe, effective and approved by the TGA.

The [TGA website](#) has a list of all RATs approved for use in Australia.

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## General resources and information

### Closing date and criteria extended for Pride in Health + Wellbeing Membership Grant EOIs



Pride in Health + Wellbeing is excited to offer service providers operating services commissioned by WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) the opportunity to apply for one of 12 memberships in Pride in Health + Wellbeing, intended to help smaller organisations provide more LGBTQ inclusive care.

These memberships will allow organisations to not only review and upskill on their care for gender and sexuality diverse patients/service users but also to measure this change through the free annual Health + Wellbeing Equality Index (HWEI) benchmark and surveys.

The Expression of Interest (EOI) criteria has been changed to increase the organisation size to 100 and the end date extended to 1 September 2022.

Refer to the [EOI document](#) for more information and return your completed EOI to [info@prideinhealth.com.au](mailto:info@prideinhealth.com.au).

Please contact Pride in Health + Wellbeing [Info@PrideinHealth.com.au](mailto:Info@PrideinHealth.com.au) or visit [Prideinhealth.com.au/grants](http://Prideinhealth.com.au/grants) .

## Strengthening Medicare Taskforce

The Strengthening Medicare Taskforce, chaired by the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP, comprising experts and policy leaders from across the health sector met for the first time in July 2022.

The Taskforce’s remit is to recommend improvements that will benefit patients through improved access, greater affordability and better management of chronic conditions in primary care.

Read the full announcement [here](#)

## SHAPE launched

As a key partner in the WA Healthy Weight Action Plan 2019-2024, WA Primary Health Alliance has launched SHAPE, an online resource hub to improve weight management in primary care. It will support health professionals to play a more central role in helping people to manage their weight and improve their health and wellbeing outcomes

The SHAPE website hosts tools, resources, and education, and is designed to promote a better understanding of the complexity of factors influencing body shape and size, and how to engage patients and guide them on their journey.

Fostering a workforce who are equipped to have the conversation with their patients and empower behaviour change is integral to supporting people living with overweight and obesity who are seeking guidance to improve their health. [Find out more](#)

## Positive Success Stories – Richmond Wellbeing

Richmond Wellbeing have shared some snapshots of some of their clients' success stories. These anecdotes act as a reminder of why service provider employees have chosen this field of work, and the privilege they have to make an impact on peoples' lives. The stories can be found [here](#).

## Help WA Health to communicate the impact of climate change on health

The University of Western Australia and Department of Health WA would like to hear from a wide range of WA healthcare professionals to better understand their views on the links between climate change and health.

This research follows on from the findings of the [Sustainable Health Review](#) and the [Climate Health WA Inquiry](#) led by the State's former Chief Health Officer, Professor Tarun Weeramanthri.

The project involves a short, [fifteen-minute survey](#) open to 22 August 2022.

The information gathered through this research will be used by WA Health to develop public health messaging and resources for both the community and health professionals.

For more information contact WA Health Lead Sustainable Development Officer, Sarah Joyce on (08) 9222 4017 or [sarah.joyce@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:sarah.joyce@health.wa.gov.au)

## Monkeypox Update

The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care Chief Medical Officer Professor Paul Kelly has declared Monkeypox a [communicable disease incident of national significance](#).

In Australia, there have been 44 cases of Monkeypox, with the WA detecting its first case in a traveller returning to the state from overseas.

The WA Department of Health has [guidance on testing, use of PPE, management of contacts and reporting of Monkeypox](#).

Cases must be reported urgently by telephone to the [Public Health Units \(Healthy WA\)](#) within a few hours of first suspicion of diagnosis.

The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care has prepared [fact sheets and posters to help health professionals and patients identify Monkeypox](#).

The WA Department of Health is working with the Australian Government to secure limited supplies of vaccines for the prevention of Monkeypox. The Deputy Chief Medical Officer is presenting a special webinar on Monkeypox which you can access [here](#). The password is xgJPqVxb323 (94577892 from phones).

## Aboriginal health service information

### Video tips from practitioners - WellMob Indigenous wellbeing website

Looking for ways of how to use the digital resources found on the [WellMob website](#) with your Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients? Watch this series of [short videos](#) from a range of practitioners sharing how they have used WellMob in their work.

## Aged care service information

### WA Advance Health Directive Launch

The End of Life Care Program within the Western Australian (WA) Department of Health, launched the revised Advance Health Directive (AHD), the new accompanying AHD Guide and advance care planning (ACP) resources for consumers and health professionals.

These resources will support Western Australians to make choices about their future health and personal care that reflects their values, beliefs and preferences.

Further information is available [here](#).

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### Understanding the use and availability of telehealth in residential aged care facilities

The Final Report: Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety identified several areas that affect aged care residents within the current health system including limited access to general practitioners (GPs) and allied health professionals within aged care facilities, difficulties accessing out of hours services and unnecessary hospital transfers. The report is available [here](#).

The initiative will support timely access to primary health care professionals for residents and better equip RACFs with telehealth equipment, training and ongoing education to support access to virtual consultations with health professionals.

To learn more about WAPHA's RACF telehealth activity, made possible through the Australia Government Aged Care Funding, contact Dr Caroline Vafeas, Senior Program Manager- Aged Care [caroline.vafeas@wapha.org.au](mailto:caroline.vafeas@wapha.org.au).

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## Mental health service information

### Delivering mental health care in general practice: Implications for practice and policy

The General Practice Mental Health Standards Collaboration (GPMHSC) recently commissioned qualitative and quantitative research amongst 864 GPs in Australia who had completed either Level 1 Mental Health Skills Training or Level 2 Focussed Psychological Strategies Skills Training.

The purpose of the research is to provide insights that will support the work of the GPMHSC and a base of evidence for formulating policy and practice relating to mental health and the upskilling of GPs in mental health.

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## Webinars, events, education and training

### Heading

- [2022 Adult Immunisation Forum](#)
- Principles of Palliative Care Module 1. More information available [here](#).
- Communication Program - Engaging in Goals of Patient Care Conversations. More information available [here](#).
- Palliative Approach Workshop for all Health Professionals. More information available [here](#).
- National Bowel Cancer Screening Program – Education Webinar – WA. More information available [here](#).
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- Aboriginal Patient Advocacy Training. More information is available [here](#).

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## Policies and Procedures

Commissioned service providers can access WA Primary Health Alliance policies and procedures that your organisation is expected to comply with in one location [here](#). Also, Notifiable Incident Reports are lodged via this webpage.

This webpage is password protected to prevent the submission of unsolicited messages and notifiable incident reports. Please email your Contract Manager to request access and the password if you do not have it already. Our expectation is that all commissioned service providers have access to the webpage.

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## Access to previous editions

Have you missed previous editions of Service Provider Connect? [View them here](#)

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[Service Provider Support Page](#)

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