

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



Palliative Care
Western Australia
Living, dying & grieving well



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We acknowledge the traditional owners of country throughout Western Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.



About us

Palliative Care WA is the peak body for the palliative care sector across Western Australia.

The organisation's Vision is that all people with life-limiting illnesses or conditions, and those important to them, are supported to live, die and grieve well.

A member-based, not-for-profit organisation, our Mission is to support and strengthen the collective voice and impact of the palliative care community, including people with a life-limiting illness or condition and those important to them, carers, health care professionals, volunteers, government and other organisations.

Our Purpose is to have a meaningful impact for people with a life-limiting illness or condition, our members and partners through raising awareness of, and increasing accessibility to, palliative care.

Our work is guided by a set of key Values:

- **Compassion** - we see people as being at the centre of everything we do
- **Respect** - we are considerate of people and their choices
- **Collaboration** - we achieve positive outcomes through inclusive engagement, strong relationships, and respecting the role we play in supporting people and the sector.

Our new Strategic Plan 2024-2027 guides the direction and focus of the organisation and provides a road map for achieving our vision that all people with life-limiting illnesses or conditions, and those important to them, are supported to live, die and grieve well.

We do this by:

- **Empowering the community**
- **Being a voice for the palliative care sector**
- **Developing the sector.**

Our membership includes professionals working in the palliative care, aged care and community sectors, organisations providing palliative care services, researchers, policy makers, allied health professionals and other members of the community who support our vision.

Report from the President and the Chief Executive Officer

The past year has been a very positive, full and constructive one for Palliative Care WA, with the Board, CEO and staff all working very hard to achieve our Vision, Mission and Purpose through empowering the community, helping to develop the palliative care sector and providing a voice for the sector.

As always, our goal has been to work towards ensuring that we continue to have a meaningful impact for those with life-limiting illnesses or conditions, and those important to them, to ensure that they are supported to live, die and grieve well.

We have been particularly buoyed by confirmation during the year of a further five-year funding from the WA Department of Health through the Sustainable End of Life and Palliative Care Peak Body Services contract 2025-2030.

We were very pleased to receive initial funding for a six-month pilot of our Advance Care Planning Support Service (ACPSS) and then confirmation that the service would continue to be funded as part of our new five-year contract with the WA Department of Health.

Our very generous supporters and sponsors (see page xx) again have provided support and funding for our major events throughout the year, including the 2025 National Palliative Care Week breakfasts in Perth, Bunbury, Albany, and this year for the first time, Pingelly, and the 2024 Palliative Care Summit – Navigating the Crossroads: Building the intersection between palliative care and neurodegenerative disease.

Our ACP workshops continued to help people make plans for their future during the year. An evaluation of the workshops conducted by the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Edith Cowan University, showed that the workshops were instrumental in enabling individuals to complete the Advance Health Directives (AHDs) correctly. The report identified that the workshops gave substitute decision-makers confidence in enacting the Advance Health Directive (AHD) for their loved ones, leading to increased satisfaction with end-of-life care and reduced stress and anxiety.



President
Dr Elissa
Campbell

This year, in recognition of the cost-of-living challenges, the Board decided to reduce membership fees considerably with annual individual membership being reduced from \$105 to \$40, and concessional membership now FREE, down from \$53. Seniors, concession card holders, full-time students and volunteers are eligible for concessional membership. It is important to have a diverse and engaged membership that strengthens our role as the peak body for palliative care and assists us to be able to provide an independent, yet inclusive voice for palliative care within WA.

With almost eight years as President of PCWA, this will be my last President's message as I will not be nominating again at the 2025 Annual General Meeting in December 2025. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Board members of 2024 and 2025 who have volunteered their great expertise to Palliative Care WA. In particular, I like to thank Vice-President Dr Simon Towler, Treasurer Hiren Mehta and Secretary Samya Brayley, for their knowledge, time and commitment to Palliative Care WA.

I would like to acknowledge Professor Samar Aoun AM, Meg Plaster, Ruth Wei and Karina Bowden for their service to Palliative Care WA, and who concluded their time on the Board following the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

Lastly, I would also like to acknowledge and thank the staff of Palliative Care WA, led by CEO Lenka Psar-McCabe, for their hard work and commitment to this wonderful organisation only made stronger by their dedication and skills. The team does a tremendous job, working above and beyond and achieving so much for such a small team.

Dr Elissa Campbell
President

CEO Lenka Psar-McCabe



Since joining PCWA almost three years ago, I along with the Board and the team have reset the Strategic Vision of PCWA and have developed new and enhanced programs and initiatives.

We have been very fortunate to deliver meaningful work through ACP education, our ACP Support Service, funded initially by our friends at Carers WA, and now both programs are supported by the Department of Health's End of Life Care Program, Sustainable End of Life and Palliative Care Peak Body Services contract.

We have continued to improve connection and death literacy for the broader community through our annual calendar of events. Our very successful 2024 Palliative Care Summit - Navigating the Crossroads: Building the intersection between palliative care and neurodegenerative disease was attended by 481 people in person or online. This summit in particular allowed us to develop strong links with organisations working in the neurological sector such as Parkinson's WA, MNDWA, the Neurological Council of WA, and the Perron Institute.

We also held a member engagement event in June to highlight our plans for next year.

A major project undertaken this year has been the Sensory Loss Project founded on a strong collaboration with the WA Primary Health Alliance and the DeafBlind community. The project was supported by funding from WA Primary Health Alliance through the Australian Government's PHN Program. It explored the health literacy for ACP and palliative care of people with sensory loss in WA, and aimed to build additional resources and capacity and capability of the Auslan sector to support informed decision making for future care planning and palliative care awareness.

The findings of the Sensory Loss Project and the printed and video resources produced through the project are testament to PCWA's commitment to creating long lasting partnerships and programs to improve death literacy and accessibility. The resources will assist people with sensory loss and other community members to learn more about what is involved in ACP and palliative care.

WA Primary Health Alliance has also been a very valued partner funding a joint initiative with Linkwest with has 147 community centres across WA, and distribution of our Palliative Caring and My Palliative Care booklets.

Next financial year we will build on these programs and will embark on:

- An expanded project with WAPHA on ACP for under-served communities
- a new project with Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services delivering education to culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) and Rainbow communities, funded by the Office of Multicultural Interests
- expansion into ACP in the financial planning sector supporting the aged care sector deliver EOL services
- delivering PalliLEARN to the community, thanks to the Lockwood Charitable Foundation's support, and a range of events.

We value our relationship with our palliative care sector partners, funders and supporters. We couldn't do what we do without their essential support. I would particularly like to thank Richard Lockwood at the Lockwood Charitable Foundation represented in WA by Paul and Marian Tye. I would also like to thank Cancer Council WA for generously providing us with our office accommodation. This allows us to concentrate on providing palliative care and ACP education to the community without worrying about having a 'roof over our head'.

In conclusion, this will be my last report as Chief Executive Officer as I have decided to leave the organisation in early 2026 to spend more time building changes in habits so that I age well. I would like to volunteer a couple of days a week and then work on other interests.

I have really enjoyed working at PCWA and supporting the palliative care sector. All those in the sector have been incredibly kind and willing to share their expertise with me and for that I am eternally grateful. I am also pleased that PCWA will be in a very strong position for the coming years with secured funding from the WA Department of Health.

I remain very grateful for the opportunity to be the CEO of Palliative Care WA and for the amazing PCWA Board and team I have the pleasure to work with. It has been such an honour to lead a team of highly skilled professionals and work with a dedicated Board committed to the success of the organisation.

**Lenka Psar-McCabe
Chief Executive Officer**

Our impact

111
ACP and Palliative Care workshops presented across WA

2,533
ACP and Palliative Care workshop participants

258*
People helped by the ACP Support Service

16,461
Palliative Caring and My Palliative Care booklets distributed

72
Individual members

8
Honorary Life Members

249
People who attended our National Palliative Care Week breakfast events

16
Organisational members

4
In-kind, reciprocal and complimentary organisational members

481
People attended the 2024 Palliative Care Summit in person or online

1,620
Palliative Care WA subscribers

32
e-newsletters and sector emails sent

202
Number of people who attended the Death Bingo Lingo event

* The ACP Support Service was reinstated in January 2025 as a pilot with funding from the WA Department of Health. The service started in February 2025, therefore figures shown are only for the five months from 1 February 2025 to 30 June 2025.

Our achievements

Empowering community

Community education workshops

Over the past year, we have delivered 111 in-person or online community education workshops on advance care planning and palliative care to 2,533 participants across WA.

These free workshops aim to encourage advance care planning conversations, increase engagement in the advance care planning process and improve palliative care and death literacy within our communities.

Some of our workshops are 'safe space' workshops that cater specifically for people with a chronic condition or terminal illness or for their family or friends who care for them. This approach allows people in vulnerable situations to feel more comfortable sharing questions and concerns with those in similar circumstances.

Workshops were delivered in metropolitan Perth as well as regional areas, including the Wheatbelt, Goldfields, and the South West. Workshops were delivered to community members in varied contexts, including libraries, men's sheds, retirement villages, learning centres, local governments and via the offices of WA State Government members of parliament.

Workshops were delivered to several priority groups, including people with CaLD backgrounds, people experiencing cognitive decline, people with disabilities, Aboriginal people, people living with life-limiting conditions such as cancer and motor neurone disease, the LGBTQI+ community and carers.

Workshops are instrumental in enabling individuals to complete an Advance Health Directive (AHDs) correctly and this has been enhanced by the reinstatement of the ACP Support Service (see page 8 for further details about this service).



Community workshop in Quairading



What do participants think of the My Future Care workshops?

- ▶ 'The workshop has given me confidence to go ahead with my older age planning.'
- ▶ 'A wonderful, heartfelt and engaging workshop, well delivered and with a real respect for everyone present.'
- ▶ 'Thank you. It was enlightening information and great to have a conversation I wouldn't have thought to have otherwise.'
- ▶ 'Amazing information and very enlightening ... This has been 'back of mind' for a long time ... I feel called to action now!'
- ▶ 'Made a complex, difficult subject relatively simple and achievable.'

Participant feedback
(2021-2025):



99%
of participants

found the workshop helpful and would recommend the workshop to others.



98%
of participants

feel more comfortable to have conversations about end-of-life wishes and completing ACP documents after taking part in the workshop.



Advance Care Planning is a process to help people decide what they want for the last part of their lives. According to Advance Care Planning Australia, currently only five per cent of Western Australians have an ACP in place, highlighting the need for more people to be helped to develop their ACP.

ACP can be explained in four steps – ‘Think, Talk, Write and Share’.

Advance Care Planning Support Service

The ACP Support Service (ACPSS) ran as a trial funded by Carers WA from 2022-2024, providing in-home 1-1 support for community members to complete their ACP documents. Since February 2025, the service has been supported by funding from the WA Department of Health. The service now offers a range of ACP support options, including:

- Advance Health Directive (AHD) document support workshops for community members (follow-up from My Future Cares workshop)
- 1-1 support to complete ACP documents at fixed site locations in Joondalup, Inglewood, Palmyra, Thornlie and Mandurah.
- 1-1 support in-home (referral required)
- 1-1 support online or phone.

It is ideal for community members to take part in the My Future Cares workshop before taking up the 1-1 support, but this is not a requirement.

We are very grateful that the WA Department of Health has seen the value of this service and has funded us to continue to offer the ACPSS. We are also grateful to Melville Cares, Community Vision, Brightwater, Thornlie Church of Christ and Mandurah Anglican Parish for hosting the fixed site locations.

A husband's story

“In the months leading up to my wife being admitted to the hospice, PCWA visited and provided us with quite a bit of information and support. PCWA also raised the subject of completing documents such as: Advance Health Directive, Power of Attorney, and Power of Guardianship. We completed the documents.

When my wife deteriorated, she was being cared for at home with assistance from [service provider]. Her pain could not be managed at home, so our GP organised for her to be admitted to the hospice.

That same day, the resident Doctor at the Hospice asked me about my wife's wishes in relation to her care. He also asked if she had an Advance Health Directive in place which I confirmed. The doctors advised me that they would take good care of her and would provide care strictly in accordance with her AHD. It was lovely to hear that the hospice would respect her wishes. I am so glad PCWA came and helped us with the documents.”

PalliLEARN workshops

During the year we introduced an enhanced schedule of online community workshops, called PalliLEARN. These workshops are supported by funding from the Lockwood Charitable Foundation and cover the following topics:

- What is palliative care?
- What matters most to me?
- Palliative care planning in five steps for informal carers
- Your role in a compassionate community
- How to have conversations about dying and grief
- Self-care
- Talking with children and teenagers about dying and grief

In May 2025, we ran two of PalliLEARN workshops in association with Lionheart Camp for Kids to help people when talking to children and teenagers about dying and grief. The workshops gave practical tips on how to have a simple and honest conversation with children and teenagers about serious illness, dying, death and grief.

Lionheart Camp for Kids is a not-for-profit organisation empowering bereaved children, teens and families to navigate their grief journey through education, peer-support, strength-building and resilience.

All our PalliLEARN workshops, which have been adapted from Palliative Care South Australia (PCSA) and Palliative Care Tasmania (PCT) resources, are well attended and we will continue to run them in the next financial year. We acknowledge PCSA and PCT for their original PalliLEARN materials and we thank them for sharing these with PCWA.



Vale Dr Bridge

Esteemed Honorary Life Member, Dr Doug Bridge, a pioneer of palliative care in Perth, died on 15 December 2024.

Dr Bridge played a key role in establishing palliative care as a specialty in Australia, was an Emeritus Consultant at Royal Perth Hospital, a Clinical Professor at the School of Medicine and Pharmacology at UWA, and was awarded an Australian Medical Association Hippocrates Award in 2018 for his outstanding commitment to medicine and palliative care in particular.

Doug's legacy is one of compassion, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to improving the care of patients that continues to influence and inspire future generations of doctors. He is very much missed in our community.

Collaborations and partnerships



Sensory Loss Project

The past year has been a very fruitful one for PCWA with strong partnerships and collaborations thanks to funding from WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) for two key projects.

Palliative Care WA commenced working with WAPHA and the Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing communities on a comprehensive project that explored the health literacy for ACP and palliative care of people with sensory loss in WA and aimed to build additional resources and capacity and capability of the Auslan sector to support informed decision making for future care planning and palliative care awareness.

A series of quick guides and Auslan videos explaining advance care planning (ACP) and palliative care were developed through the project. The quick guides explain in plain English what ACP is and what palliative care is. They also explain the key documents that are needed as part of ACP. The videos achieve the same but using an Auslan interpreter and captions.

The topics covered include:

- WHAT IS ADVANCE CARE PLANNING?
- WHAT IS AN ADVANCE HEALTH DIRECTIVE?
- WHAT IS AN ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY?
- WHAT IS AN ENDURING POWER OF GUARDIANSHIP?
- WHAT IS PALLIATIVE CARE?

End-of-Life Project partnership with WAPHA and Linkwest

During 2024-2025, PCWA delivered online ACP education to Community Resource Centre (CRC) and Neighbourhood Centre staff throughout WA as part of the End-of-Life Project partnership with WAPHA and Linkwest. This project generated strong interest in community education workshops, and PCWA was invited to partner with a range of Wheatbelt CRCs to offer ACP workshops in their centres.

Community Resource Centres are vital hubs in regional communities, and they are often deeply connected to their communities. The Wheatbelt CRCs worked hard to promote ACP in their communities, bringing 69 community members together for workshops in Quairading, Merredin, Williams, Wagin, Dumbleyung and Lake Grace CRCs.

Feedback from participants included:

“

“I now know how vital these forms are.”

“Really appreciated the whole workshop and it has given me a new confidence in completing this form.”

“Grateful to be able to access this service at Quairading.”

”

PCWA and Umbrella Multicultural Community Care project

Palliative Care WA and Umbrella Multicultural Community Care have commenced work on creating and presenting culturally responsive palliative care workshops for selected CaLD communities.

The project is part of the broader Bridging Health Gaps: Building Capacity in Palliative Care and Cancer Prevention for CaLD and Rainbow Migrants Communities project and is funded by the Office of Multicultural Interests.

The project aims to provide culturally sensitive workshops to educate and empower CaLD and LGBTIQ+ communities regarding palliative care and to enhance the inclusivity and accessibility of PCWA resources.

The project will commence in earnest in the 2025-2026 so will be reported on in detail in next year’s annual report.

Information and help for individuals, families and carers

Palliative Caring and My Palliative Care

Our two key information booklets, Palliative Caring and My Palliative Care, which provide information to support families and carers as they negotiate caring for a loved one with a life-limiting illness, and for individuals on the palliative care journey themselves, continued to be in high demand with organisations and individuals.

Palliative Caring covers a variety of topics to support and guide families and carers through the palliative caring journey. These include hoping for the best and planning for the rest, the role of a carer, what is palliative care, planning and decision-making, caring at home, rural and remote considerations, last days of life and death and bereavement.

My Palliative Care includes similar topics but with an emphasis on helping people make informed decisions that reflect their personal needs and circumstances as they approach this part of their lives. It presents options to consider and references a range of services and supports that might be helpful.

The booklets are free and have been made possible through generous funding via the Greater Choices for at Home Palliative Care, an Australian Government initiative implemented by WA Primary Health Alliance in WA.



We said farewell to our Helpline team at a morning tea gathering in Shenton Park.

Palliative Care Helpline

Due to funding no longer being available, the Palliative Care Helpline ceased operation on 31 October 2024. To lessen the impact of the service ceasing, enhanced information has been added to our website, including a comprehensive frequently asked questions section, and a revised palliative care services directory, and the addition of more and key details to help with the community's advice needs.

We farewelled the amazing Helpline team at an event in November 2024.



New events to help demystify death

Our inaugural Death Lingo Bingo event was held on 21 March 2025 at the Leederville Function Centre developed and delivered to raise awareness about death and dying and raise funds towards our many volunteer activities.

The event was a great success with more than 200 people attending the event and competing for an amazing array of prizes.

The concept was created by Palliative Care WA and has since been taken up by other palliative care organisations across WA keen to present a successful and death demystifying event.

Palliative Care WA also held a number of Death Cafes in the year, including during National Advance Care Planning Week, in National Palliative Care Week and on Dying to Know Day.

Death Cafes have a vital role to play in helping people to increase their awareness of death, dying and grief.

We also helped publicised death cafes being run by other organisations and individuals in the palliative care sector.

A voice for the palliative care sector



At the National Palliative Care Week 2025 sector breakfast were: Paul Tye, guest speaker Jean Kittson, Marian Tye and PCWA CEO Lenka Psar-McCabe.

Sharing our collective voice

As a peak body we provide an independent and collective voice for palliative care, always working to ensure quality services for all Western Australians with palliative care needs.

Palliative Care WA continued to coordinate the voice of our members and those we serve through events, communications and involvement in consultations and national initiatives.

During the year, we held events and conducted promotions for two important yearly events – National Advance Care Planning Week and National Palliative Care Week.

For National Palliative Care Week from 10–17 May 2025 with theme ‘What’s your plan?’, we held our signature annual event. This year, our Annual Sector Breakfast was held in four locations – Perth, Bunbury, Albany and, for the first time thanks to the Lockwood Charitable Foundation, in Pingelly. Our guest speakers were Jean Kitson AM, author, public speaker, actor and comedian, and Wheatbelt Specialist Palliative Care Clinical Nurse/Educator Garth Wolfenden who gave heartfelt and inspiring presentations. Together with skilled MC Di Darmody, they made the event a great success.

Other events and activities during the week included:

- ACP workshops in the Wheatbelt region in communities in Quairading, Merredin, Pingelly, Williams, Wagin, Dumbelyung and Lake Grace
- an ACP document completion workshop
- Council House in Perth illuminated in orange light.

Earlier we acknowledged National Advanced Care Planning Week from 17–23 March 2025, which encouraged all Australians to share what matters most about their future health care wishes and preferences, was acknowledged and celebrated in WA by:

- the inaugural Death Lingo Bingo event
- ACP workshops in partnership with Melville Cares in Alfred Cove, one at the Spiers Centre in Marangaroo, one through Communicare, an ACP document completion workshop, and two online workshops
- a workshop on palliative care presented at Solaris Cancer Care in Cottesloe
- a podcast interview with PaSCE.

Palliative Care WA also participated in a number of third-party events during the year where we promoted the importance of ACP, our workshops, the ACP support service, membership, and our Palliative Caring and My Palliative Care booklets.

These have included:

- Carers Week Conference 2024
- Cancer Awareness Week stall at St John of God Murdoch Hospital in October 2024
- A presentation on ACP delivered at the Australasian Neurological Conference 2025.

Compassionate Communities

Palliative Care WA continued to foster the Compassionate Communities approach to supporting community members experiencing dying, death, caregiving, grief and loss through a variety of initiatives. These included facilitating monthly online meetings of the Compassionate Communities Network WA and building interest, capacity and development of community-led groups across WA.

PCWA has continued to facilitate monthly online meetings for the Compassionate Communities Network WA. Three monthly meetings were facilitated during the reporting period, with a total of 29 attendees.

There has been discussion within the network as to the relevance of the network now that Compassionate Communities Australia has been established. However, participants advised that they are still finding the information sharing and hearing about what is going on within the Compassionate Communities sector relevant and helpful. It is our intention to continue the network with this feedback in mind.

The forum has been valuable in developing a successful event on palliative care volunteering, encouraging death cafes around the state and sharing resources.

Lasting Words

Lasting Words assists people to have their stories, thoughts and special memories captured in a legacy document.

PCWA auspices Lasting Words to provide training for volunteers to visit people in their homes or in residential aged care to record their conversations and transcribe their stories.

PCWA also provides administrative support for the group and core funding for printing the legacy documents. The core team of Jo Ward, Jan McKay and Larissa Knight run the program based in Perth metropolitan area.

In a new development, as a means of scaling and broadening the program, Busselton Hospice Incorporated staff were trained in the program and encouraged to launch a local version. (See more below).

In addition to supporting Busselton Hospice, the Perth team delivered local services. The Lasting Words program received 29 referrals during the year, with five coming from relatives and the majority from key service providers and aged care facilities.

After having an initial discussion with the client, 14 proceeded to having their story told. Capturing stories takes multiple meetings, usually between five to nine one-hour sessions before a legacy document is put together for the client to give to their loved one/s. From experience, the best result is achieved if the process starts sooner rather than later in the palliative care journey.

The Lasting Words service requires incredibly dedicated and skilled volunteers to undertake a full day of training followed by an allotment of supervised cases. Significant planning and coordination is required to match the storytellers to the interviewers.

During the financial year, 18 new volunteers expressed interest in learning about becoming a Lasting Words interviewer volunteer. We express our gratitude to the dozen volunteers in the Perth metropolitan area who provided Lasting Words services during the year.

Thank you to all the volunteers of Lasting Words.



George Ferris with Lasting Words Busselton volunteer Heather Hill.

Lasting Words Busselton Program

Palliative Care WA, in collaboration with Busselton Hospice Care Inc, launched the Lasting Words Busselton Program to extend Dignity Therapy services into regional Western Australia.

Volunteers successfully completed dignity therapy training through Palliative Care WA, with the first legacy document created for a 101-year-old community member who shared his life story, values, and heartfelt messages with his family. He was deeply moved to receive a printed booklet of his legacy, which he proudly shared with loved ones.

Ten additional volunteers completed foundational support training with Busselton Hospice Care Inc, followed by Dignity Therapy interviewer training. These volunteers are now conducting practice interviews and receiving transcription mentoring in preparation for full program participation.

Several storytellers have completed their interviews and received their legacy documents. Community interest continues to grow, though demand currently exceeds capacity. A waitlist is in place while additional volunteers are trained to meet the needs of those wishing to share their stories.

Developing the sector

Palliative Care WA prioritises and values contributing to a highly skilled end-of-life sector that is inclusive and willing to share and learn.

By working with our members and stakeholders, we aim to encourage and foster innovative opportunities across the sector and advocate for increased investment in palliative care through facilitation of advisory groups and collective advocacy.



2024 Palliative Care Summit – Navigating the Crossroads: Building the intersection between palliative care and neurodegenerative disease

The 2024 Palliative Care Summit – Navigating the Crossroads: Building the intersection between palliative care and neurodegenerative disease was the fourth summit of its kind in Western Australia and this year it was officially opened by Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson.

The theme was selected to forge connections with the neurological sector as many people with neurodegenerative diseases and conditions are often late in accessing specialist palliative care. Inroads are required to help people to have earlier discussions while they have capacity to express their wishes.

The event brought together palliative care, aged care and community service professionals, researchers, volunteers, policy makers, students, carers and community members to discuss future priorities for quality palliative care in WA and its role in care for people with neurodegenerative diseases. With the goal of informing, the summit program also aimed to connect emotionally with participants – which it achieved with many heartfelt moments throughout.

In addition to two keynote speakers – Professor Hsien Seow and Professor Susan Kurrle AO, there were presentations from Professor Samar

Aoun, Dr Nathalie Huitema, Caroline Reid, Lenni Duffield, Andrew Allsop, Bernadette Nowak, and Professor Alan Harvey. Workshops were presented by Professor Hsien Seow, Professor Susan Kurrle, Dr Peta Murray and Sabena Lund and a panel discussion led by MC Di Darmody included Vicki Barry, Janet Wagland and Richard Newman.

The post event survey was completed by 152 participants. A total of 85% reported that the event met the objectives of the summit, and they rated it as either excellent or very good.



“An excellent day all round. Has generated enthusiasm and many thoughts for improving palliative care and practice in the disability sector.” – Participant

“Thanks so much for the opportunity to be a part of such an important summit. The speakers you had were amazing! Well done, too, on programming such a diverse, interesting program. This has been a great experience for me.” – Presenter



CEO Roundtable on Palliative Care

The CEO Roundtable provides high level advice to the WA Government on palliative care issues. The CEO Roundtable includes member organisations within the health, aged care and community services sectors. During 2024–2025, Palliative Care WA held two CEO Roundtable meetings – one in October 2024 and one in March 2025.

At the October 2024 CEO Roundtable for Palliative Care in WA meeting, 20 representatives discussed latest developments in palliative care in the State. Two speakers gave presentations, including A/ Professor Alison Parr, Clinical Lead Palliative Care, WA Health and Dr Ian Dey, Chief Medical Officer, WAVED (WA Virtual Emergency Department).

At our March 2025 meeting, 22 representatives met to discuss two topics:

Topic 1: The WA Law Reform Commission’s review of the Guardianship and Administration Act (GAA). The commission released for public comment a discussion paper in two volumes outlining the current law in Western Australia and possible ideas for change. PCWA was asked to be part of the WA Law Reform Commission’s Older Persons Reference Group.

Topic 2: New Aged Care Act – greater emphasis on end-of-life (EoL) support. Attendees at the meeting discussed what information the palliative care sector wants to convey about the services they deliver for EOL to support the aged care sector. Discussion centred around Palliative Care Australia’s (PCA) draft submission on Support at Home End of Life Pathway.

The June 2024 CEO Roundtable meeting was delayed until July 2024 so has not included in this report.

Advance Care Planning Consortium

The Advance Care Planning Consortium is a network of organisations and individuals committed to jointly promoting and delivering information, educational opportunities, and promotional strategies to facilitate the uptake of advance care planning in WA.

The consortium met three times during the year. The focus of the meeting is to reflect on previous work and to consider the next steps for the consortium around progressing the uptake of ACP within WA.

Issues discussed in the meetings included:

- WA Law Reform Commission’s review of the Guardianship and Administration Act
- Discuss the sectors plans for Advance Care Planning Week 17th March - 23rd March 2025.
- Presentation by David Spice (Senior Project Manager, Advance Care Planning, Aged Care Program) on the Advance Care Planning Discovery Project
- Promotion of Palliative Care WA’s new pilot Advance Care Planning Support service funded by the WA Health Department.



Members attending our Your Front Row Seat members event in June 2025.

Your Front Row Seat

Palliative Care WA Members, staff and supporters came together on Tuesday 24 June 2024 to hear all about the organisation’s planned projects, programs and events for the coming financial year.

The informal catch-up event at Claremont Football Club was a fun evening of information sharing, good conversation and tasty finger food.

We shared some of our goals and priorities, reflected on the journey so far and, most importantly, took the opportunity to say thank you for the support and contributions of our incredible members, friends and supporters.

Contribution to national policy

During the year, Palliative Care WA continued to contribute to national policy and advocacy through:

- representing the sector and the community by participating in State and national palliative care Boards, advisory groups, and panels, and contributing to palliative care research
- promoting the key themes of National Palliative Care Week and National Advance Care Planning Week
- highlighting Palliative Care Australia's campaigns including Federal election and budget campaigns.
- Participating in the National Advance Care Planning Discovery Project where future state recommendations and the road ahead was developed and presented to the federal agency.

Communications and marketing

Communications and marketing conducted by Palliative Care WA contributes to increased awareness and understanding of the importance of advance care planning and palliative care.

During the year, PCWA used Facebook, LinkedIn, the PCWA website, electronic direct emails and electronic newsletters, and paid advertising and unpaid editorial in newspapers and radio to promote the full range of PCWA events, initiatives and activities, including:

- Palliative Care Summit 2024 - Navigating the Crossroads: Building the intersection between palliative care and neurodegenerative disease
- Re-establishment of the ACP Support Service
- ACP and PalliLEARN workshops
- PCWA Death Cafes
- Revised Palliative Caring and My Palliative Care booklets

- National Palliative Care Week 2025 events and initiatives
- Your Front Row Seat - member and partner event
- Lasting Words events and training
- Partner organisation's events and initiatives
- National and WA palliative care policy initiatives, conferences, events and weeks
- National ACP Week events and initiatives
- Compassionate Communities events and initiatives.

Communications and marketing at PCWA includes reputation management, branding management, social media management, media liaison, website management, publication management, and the writing and development of communications strategies, key messaging, awareness campaigns, printed publications, newsletters and speeches.

Our Board



Dr Elissa Campbell
President



Simon Towler
Vice President



Hiren Mehta
Treasurer



Samya (Sam) Brayley
Secretary



Janet Wagland
Member



Prof Davina Porock
Member



Liz Behjat
Member



Maria Davison
Member



Zoe Clarke
Member

Our thanks go to former Board Members Professor Samar Aoun AM, Adjunct Professor Yasmin Naglazas, Meg Plaster, Ruth Wei and Karina Bowden for their service to Palliative Care WA.

Our Team



Lenka Psar-McCabe
Chief Executive Officer



Jo Micallef
Partnerships, Events
and Administration



Helen Greenham
Finance



Liz Rehfeldt
Marketing and
Communications



Julia Kennington
Advance Care
Planning Support and
Community Education



Sabena Lund
Community Education
and Projects



Fran Ball
Advance Care
Planning Support



Sonje Allegretta
Advance Care
Planning Support



Shane Bailey
Advance Care
Planning Support

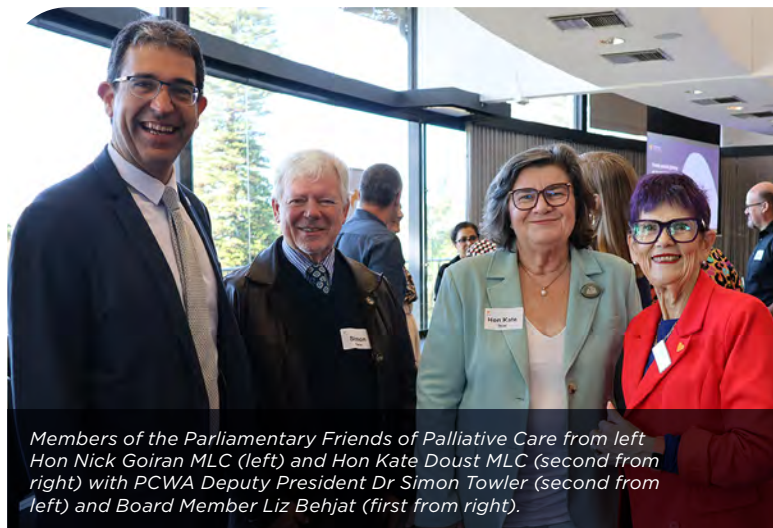
Members and Supporters

Membership

A diverse and engaged membership strengthens our role as the peak body for palliative care in Western Australia and helps us to continue to provide an independent, strong and collective voice for quality palliative care in our State.

Our members include palliative care, aged care, home care and community service providers, health professionals and clinicians, researchers, educators, policy makers, carers, students, volunteers and community members.

Together with our individual and organisation members, we work to continue to positively impact our sector's development and advocate for equitable access to quality palliative care for all Western Australians.



Members of the Parliamentary Friends of Palliative Care from left Hon Nick Goiran MLC (left) and Hon Kate Doust MLC (second from right) with PCWA Deputy President Dr Simon Towler (second from left) and Board Member Liz Behjat (first from right).

We would like to express our gratitude for the support of the Parliamentary Friends of Palliative Care, a WA Parliament Members' group that is co-convened by Hon Kate Doust MLC and Hon Nick Goiran MLC.



72

Palliative Care WA individual members



In-kind, reciprocal and complimentary organisational members



16

Palliative Care WA organisational members



8

Honorary Life Members

Geoff Blyth
Ellen Nightingale
Joy Bran
Professor Doug Bridge
Dr Kevin Yuen
Dr Scott Blackwell
Dr Alice Phua
Susie Vojkovic

Supporters

We are grateful to our main service funder, the WA Department of Health - End of Life Care Program, not only for providing funding for many of our core activities but also for the invaluable advice and support throughout the year, including the 2024 Palliative Care Summit and the Advance Care Planning Support Service pilot. Thank you too to WAPHA for funding the Palliative Caring and My Palliative Care booklets, the Sensory Loss Project and a project with Linkwest and to Richard Lockwood for continued support.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

Our thanks go to all the organisations and individuals listed on this page for their generous support over the past year, either through sponsorship, in-kind support, or pro bono support.

Thank you to PEACH - Personnel Employed at Alcoa Charity Help - for providing Palliative Care WA with a grant to buy photographic equipment, a media wall, a speaker, and other essential office items.

2024 Palliative Care Summit Sponsors

Bethesda Health Care

The Lockwood Charitable Foundation

Brightwater Care Group Ltd

Silverchain Group

Cancer Council of WA Palliative and Supported Care Education

St John of God Health Care

Carers WA

Parkinson's WA

Motor Neurone Disease Association of WA

Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science

HESTA

National Palliative Care Week Breakfast 2025 Sponsors

The Lockwood Charitable Foundation
Bethesda Health Care
Brightwater Care Group Ltd
Silverchain Group
Cancer Council of WA Palliative and Supported Care Education
St John of God Health Care
Melville Cares Inc
Parkinson's WA

Supporters

Fraser's Kings Park
Dolphin Discovery Centre in Bunbury
Albany Golf Resort
Pingelly Recreation and Cultural Centre
SW Palliative Care Unit (WACHS)
Albany Community Hospice

Dead Lingo Bingo donors

Integrated ICT
East Perth Football Club
Mike Heap
Alison Harvey

McCabe Family
Perth Wildcats
Grouch & Co Coffee
Bunnings Wembley
John Carey MLA
Margaret Quirk Former MLA
Matthew Hughes Former MLA
Emily Hamilton MLA
Kate Chaney MP
QT Hotels
Willie Creek Pearls
BWS Floreat
HESTA
Optus Stadium
Coles Floreat
Fraser's Kings Park
Helen Greenham
Suzanne Green
Dental Vision

Other donations to PCWA

Racing WA
Hawaiian Pty Ltd
The Regent Park Estate Community
Jarrahdale Community Collective
Hon Patrick Gorman MP

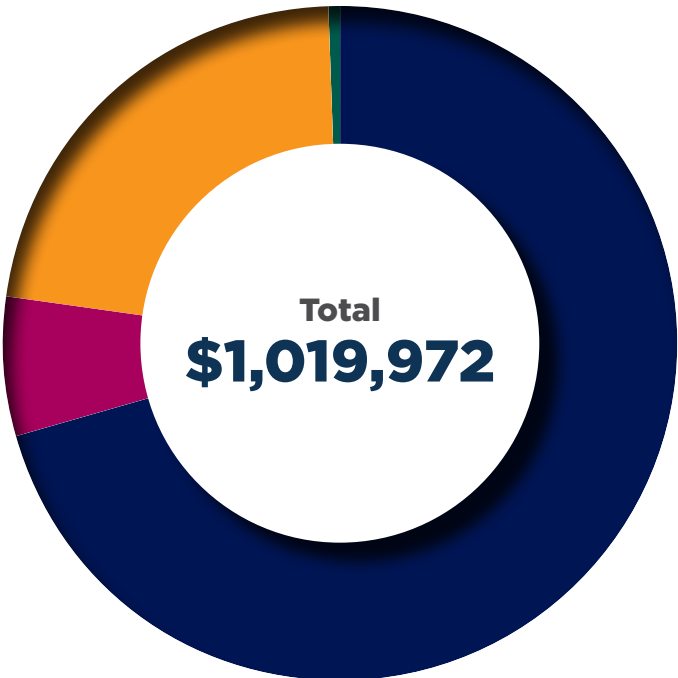
Finances



FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2025

INCOME	\$	%
Membership Fees	44,108	4.1
Donations and Bequests	16,052	1.5
Sponsorship and Event Registrations	92,922	8.7
Government Grants	649,776	60.9
Other Income	263,945	24.7
Total	1,066,803	100.0

- Membership Fees
- Donations and Bequests
- Sponsorship and Event Registrations
- Government Grants
- Other Income



FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2025

EXPENDITURE	\$	%
Employee Costs	720,761	70.7
Operating Costs	67,054	6.6
Event and Project Costs	229,149	22.5
Other Expenses	3,008	0.3
Total	1,019,972	100.0

- Employee Costs
- Operating Costs
- Event and Project Costs
- Other Expenses

2024 Palliative Care Summit -

Navigating the Crossroads:
Building the intersection
between palliative care and
neurodegenerative disease





Palliative Care
Western Australia
Living, dying & grieving well

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Shenton Park, WA 6008

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