



14 July 2025

CEO Roundtable for Palliative Care – Meeting held on 4 July 2025

Communique 12

At our 4 July CEO Roundtable for Palliative Care meeting, 24 representatives from organisations with an interest in palliative care met to discuss the latest developments in palliative care in Western Australia.

Topics discussed included the following:

Topic 1: WA Labor’s election announcement on major package to support aged care services across the State, establishment of pilot and Australian-first model of care for older Western Australians, creation of ‘Integrated Older Adult Care Hubs.

The announcement in the lead up to the March 2025 State election stated that the hubs would include:

- a range of clinical staff, including GPs, geriatric specialists, physiotherapists and psychologists
- palliative care services
- dementia services, including memory clinics and advanced care planning
- supports to assist families navigate aged care services.

[See media release on page four]

The rich and useful discussion among the CEO Roundtable attendees centred on:

- welcoming the introduction of integrated older adult care hubs with involvement of access to skilled interdisciplinary health professionals and integration with existing health, aged care and community services.
- stressing the importance of the hubs being community led, using community development principles and support by the medical sector. Taking the learnings from the Department of Communities.
- consensus that many older people did not want a digital-only approach and preferred face-to-face interaction with services. This was seen as critical to the hub approach.
- as part of the implementation for hubs being introduced in each location, a full audit of existing services in the community be undertaken so that a local service directory is created with the aim of reducing duplication.
- creating a navigation resource for clear pathways and enable easier access of the systems that support older Australians. This includes My Aged Care, community care and local hospital networks. Older Australians and their carers have to navigate both the Federal and State systems.
- providing guidance on the difference between specialist and general palliative care.
- access to Advance Care Planning (ACP) support, including support for those who have an early diagnosis of dementia.
- partnering with non-for-profit community groups who have volunteers with lived experience of being a carer and navigating the systems.
- the importance of having palliative care represented in the hub model.
- some hesitation that hubs could become another layer or replication of other services already provided and questioning whether the hubs would form a triage or specialist service.
- the risks inherent in the shortage of GPs, psychologists and physiotherapists which could present challenges for referrals from the hubs.

- the need for consideration to be given to how the hubs could be made LGBTQI+ friendly.
- the usefulness of the hubs to those leaving hospital.

Topic 2: How would the sector like to engage and connect with the newly reformed Parliamentary Friends of Palliative Care reconvened for the 42nd WA Parliament lead by Hon Kate Doust MLC and Hon Nick Goiran MLC.

Attendees at the meeting welcomed the reconvening of the Parliamentary Friends of Palliative Care in the 42nd WA Parliament and saw the value of the sector engaging with the group, either individually or through PCWA.

It was suggested that PCWA requests the Parliamentary Friends of Palliative Care consider hosting a function at parliament house to meet the sectors providers and consider giving a parliamentary speech on the group to help raise awareness of palliative care in WA and the importance of advance care planning.

The purpose of the Parliamentary Friends of Palliative Care is to:

- facilitate communication between people and organisations working in palliative care and Members of Parliament
- provide opportunities for Members of Parliament to learn about palliative care needs and services and the issues involved in palliative care provision
- increase awareness and raise the profile of palliative care in the community generally
- promote an understanding of palliative care in accordance with the World Health Organization's definition of palliative care, noting in particular that palliative care "intends neither to hasten or postpone death", and that this definition of palliative care has been endorsed by Palliative Care Australia and Palliative Care WA.

PCWA President Dr Elissa Campbell and CEO Lenka Psar-McCabe thanked the Department of Health End of Life Care Program for funding the Advance Care Planning Support Service. DL flyers promoting the ACP workshops and the ACP Support Service (ACPSS) were distributed at the meeting and participants were encouraged to promote the free services to their clients. Participants were also made aware of the opportunities to partner with PCWA to present 1-1 support sessions through their organisations.

Further details about the ACPSS are available here: <https://palliativecarewa.asn.au/carers-and-families/advance-care-planning/advance-care-planning-support-service/>

Meeting attendees

- Dr Elissa Campbell, President, Palliative Care WA – meeting facilitator
- Lenka Psar-McCabe, CEO, Palliative Care WA
- Dr Alison Parr, Clinical Lead Palliative Care, WA Department of Health
- Amanda Silla, Program Manager, WA Department of Health End of Life Care Program
- Barbara Voight, Nurse Educator, Palliative Care, NMHS
- Nicole Hoskins, Nurse Director, State Health Operations Centre, WA Department of Health
- Mark Kinsela, CEO, COTAWA
- Paul Rogers, A/CEO, Carer's WA
- Catherine Stoddart, CEO, Brightwater Care Group
- Renae Lavell, Executive Director, Silverchain Group

- Janelle McFarlane, Director Health Services, Silverchain Group
- Adjunct Professor Yazmin Naglazas, CEO, Parkinson's Western Australia
- James Jarvis, CEO Busselton Hospice
- Daniel Hitchcock, Director Corporate Services, Hall and Prior
- David Gibson, Chair, GRAI - LGBTI Rights in Ageing Inc
- Etta Palumbo, CEO, Neurological Council of WA
- Tim Ryan, Manager PaSCE, Cancer Council WA
- Anna Kirk, Manager Complex Care, St Johns WA
- Stacey Abbott, Senior Manager of Specialist Operations, St Johns WA
- Bev Jowle, CEO, Advocare
- Maeve Egan, CEO, MNDWA
- Sam Brayley, Board Secretary, PCWA
- Jo Micallef, Partnerships, Events and Administration, Palliative Care WA
- Liz Rehfeldt, Marketing and Communications, Palliative Care WA

Apologies

- Professor Davina Porock, Research Fellow, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU (PCWA Board member)
- Liz Behjat, WA-NT State Manager, Ageing Australia (PCWA Board member)
- Fiona Jane, Clinical Hospice Manager, Albany Hospice
- Tish Morrison, Program Manager Palliative Care, WAPHA
- Shelly Skinner, CEO, Lionheart
- Yvonne Timson, CEO, Community Vision
- Margherita Nicoletti, Clinical Lead End of Life Care, WA Department of Health End of Life Care Program
- Fiona Simpson, State Manager Client Services, Dementia Australia
- Chris Jeffrey, Chief Policy Officer, COTA
- Janet Wagland, General Manager, Community, Brightwater Care Group (PCWA Board member)
- Tanya Pidgeon, Facilitator, PCOC
- Professor Samar Aoun AM, Perron Institute Research Chair in Palliative Care UWA, Chair of Compassionate Communities Australia, and Chair South West Compassionate Communities Network
- Clare Mullen, Executive Director, Health Consumers' Council
- Maria Davison, CEO, Cares Community (PCWA Board member)

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 12 February 2025

WA Labor to deliver nation-leading aged care support package

- Re-elected Cook Labor Government will deliver a \$140 million aged care package
- New \$100 million loan facility to help expand aged care services
- Australian-first model of care to be established through new 'Integrated Older Adult Care Hubs'
- WA Labor to implement the State's first Dementia Action Plan
- Package also includes additional funding towards the Queens Park Aboriginal Aged Care Project

WA Labor has today announced a major package to support aged care services across the State.

The \$140 million package includes a range of initiatives that will expand facilities, deliver more aged care beds, improve health outcomes for older Western Australians and alleviate pressure on the State's health system.

The package is headlined by a new \$100 million low-interest loan facility for providers to deliver more aged care beds.

The loans will help providers deliver more concessional aged care beds across the State by providing funding to expand existing facilities and refurbish unused facilities to bring them back online.

It's estimated the loan facility will support the delivery of up to 500 additional concessional aged care beds, helping to alleviate pressure on the State's hospital system.

A re-elected Cook Labor Government will also pilot an Australian-first model of care for older Western Australians, with the establishment of 'Integrated Older Adult Care Hubs'.

The hubs will be piloted in three locations and provide older adults with chronic and complex conditions a full range of services to support them to stay well in the community and avoid preventable hospitalisations.

The hubs will include a range of services including:

- a range of clinical staff including GPs, geriatric specialists, physiotherapists and psychologists;
- palliative care services;
- dementia services including memory clinics and advanced care planning; and
- supports to assist families navigate aged care services.

WA Labor will also invest \$1 million to establish the State's first Dementia Action Plan to improve outcomes for people living with dementia and their families.

The action plan will adopt a range of measures including training for hospital staff in managing patients with dementia, a public facing communications campaign to assist families managing dementia at home, ensure all new hospital developments include