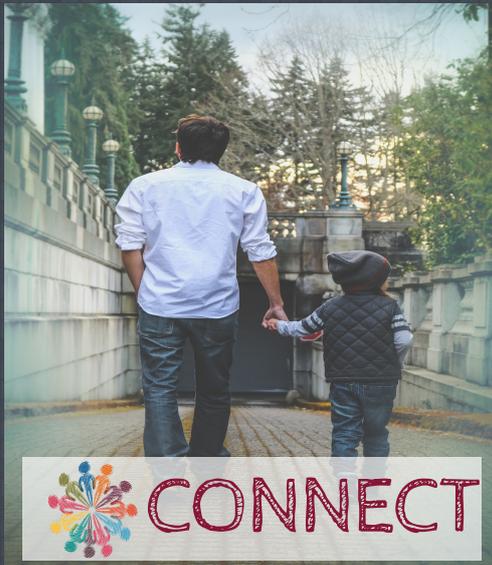


Health Networks

Quarterly Report

April - June 2021



3 appointments (Clinical Lead, Lead and Medical Advisor) for Health Networks.¹

1 WA Cancer Strategic Leadership Group established.²

3674 subscribers to the Health Networks Bulletin.³



In preparation for the commencement of Voluntary Assisted Dying on 1 July 2021:

214 participants attended the Voluntary Assisted Dying Implementation Conference for WA health professionals.⁴

40+ participants attended the Voluntary Assisted Dying Community webinar.⁵



31 members for the Advance Care Planning Education for Health Professionals and the Community Reference Group.⁶

115 participants attended the 55th Clinical Senate which considered the topic of contemporary workforce roles.⁷

HEALTH NETWORKS

Quarterly Report Notes

April – June 2021



1) **3 appointments** (*Clinical Lead, Medical Advisor and Lead*) for Health Networks.

The Department of Health has committed to the establishment of an Older Person Health Network (OPHN) which will provide coordinated, multi-disciplinary clinical advice to the Minister for Health via the Director General. An EOI for the Clinical Lead of the OPHN was published on 27 May 2021.

Dr Nick Spendier, the Interim Lead of the OPHN was the successful applicant and commences as the OPHN Clinical Lead on 1 July 2021. Nick currently divides his time between the WA Department of Health and the WA Country Health Service (WACHS). Nick is the Director of Geriatric Medicine at WACHS providing clinical support to Narrogin and Geraldton. As a medical advisor in the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Nick manages the Data and Analytics team and supporting medical workforce.

The Cancer Network welcomed Dr Tom Ferguson to the position of Medical Advisor for Cancer. Dr Ferguson brings with him valuable expertise as a Medical Oncology Consultant at Fiona Stanley Hospital. As Medical Advisor for Cancer he will play a crucial role in progressing the implementation of the WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025. In addition, Dr Ferguson will be instrumental in leading the Cancer Leads Group.

The Cancer Network also welcomed Dr Katherine Broughton who has taken on a Cancer Leads role. Dr Broughton will complement the existing Leads Group as the Colorectal Cancer Lead and brings a wealth of experience from across the WA health system to this important position.

2) **1 WA Cancer Strategic Leadership Group established.** The Department of Health has recently established the WA Cancer Strategic Leadership Group (WACSLG) to oversee implementation of the WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025 and address cancer-related matters that cross organisational boundaries and have state-wide impact.

The WACSLG will meet quarterly and will be co-chaired by Dr Tom Ferguson the Medical Advisor for Cancer, Clinical Excellence Division, and Dr Karen Taylor A/Director of Nursing, WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network Clinical Implementation Unit (WACPCN CIU). Membership on the group is being finalised with the first meeting due to kick-off in late-July 2021.

3) There are **3674** subscribers to the Health Networks Bulletin which is circulated monthly. Visit this weblink to subscribe today!
(<https://datalibrary-rc.health.wa.gov.au/surveys/?s=L3MJDP7FN>)



- 4) **214 participants attended the Voluntary Assisted Dying Implementation Conference** The Voluntary Assisted Dying Implementation Conference for WA health professionals was held on Saturday the 22nd and Sunday the 23rd of May 2021 at Fraser's Kings Park.

The conference provided an opportunity for health professionals to be updated on many aspects of the implementation preparations for the commencement of voluntary assisted dying from 1 July 2021. It provided an opportunity to learn more about how practitioners and organisations may be involved and also the roles, rights and responsibilities of health practitioners and health care workers. Participants heard from Canadian and Victorian speakers who shared their experiences and perspectives on the implementation of voluntary assisted dying in their jurisdictions.

The conference was well attended, with 117 attending in person and 97 attending online across the two days. It is the recordings of presentations are available on the WA Health website (https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/U_Z/Voluntary-assisted-dying/Implementation).

- 5) **40+ participants attended the Voluntary Assisted Dying Community webinar.** A webinar on voluntary assisted dying was held on Wednesday 16th June 2021 and provided an opportunity to learn more about process and how voluntary assisted dying can be accessed from 1 July 2021. A recording of the community webinar presentation delivered by Noreen Fynn and Dr Andrew Miller is now available on the HealthyWA webpage: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgiZINbVs3g>)



- 6) **31 members selected to join the Advance Care Planning Education for Health Professionals and the Community Reference Group.** 90 expressions of interest were received to join the Advance Care Planning Education for Health Professionals and the Community Reference Group. Of those, 31 individuals were selected to join the newly established group which first met in June. The purpose of the group is to build on existing work and partnerships to advise and support WA Health on the implementation of the strategies within WA Health's Strategy for ACP Education and Awareness Raising.

7) **115 participants attended the Clinical Senate.** The Western Australia's Clinical Senate met on Friday 11th June 2021, where 115 participants from across WA Health including our rural and remote health service providers, came together to discuss the very timely topic; Contemporary Workforce Roles. Mr Jeff Moffet, Chief Executive, WA Country Health Service sponsored the meeting with the Hon. Roger Cook MLA, Deputy Premier and Minister for Health opening the triannual event.

Senators heard how high performing teams can work to the full scope of practice, whilst also hearing from a diverse panel who discussed how this worked within their individual organisations. Recommendations arising from the debate will be developed and circulated to senators before being submitted to the Health Executive Committee.

The Final Report for this last meeting will be published on the Clinical Senate Website. (<https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Improving-WA-Health/Clinical-Senate-of-Western-Australia>).