

Southern Inland Health Initiative



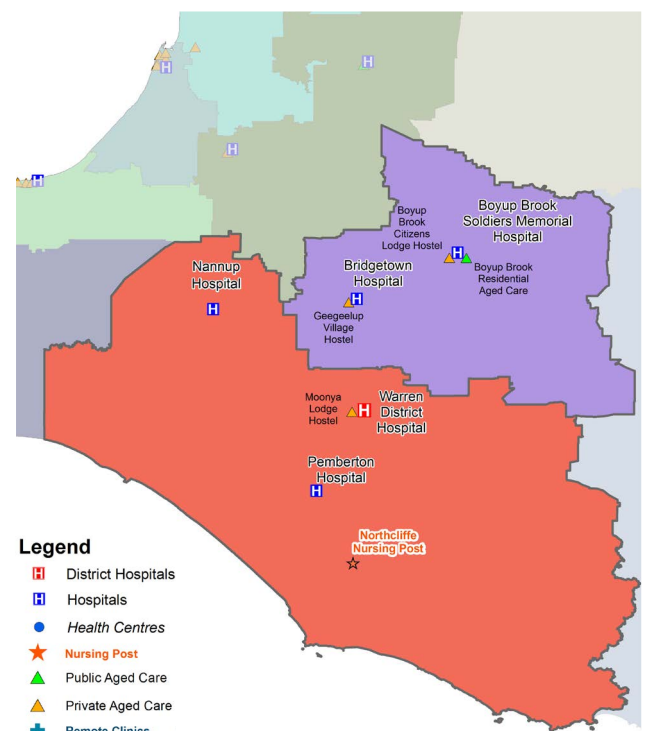
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What is SIHI providing in the Warren Blackwood district?

The Southern Inland Health Initiative (SIHI) is a half a billion dollar investment by the State Government's Royalties for Regions that's transforming health care throughout the southern inland region of WA, including towns in the Wheatbelt, South West, Great Southern, Midwest and Goldfields.

Delivered by the WA Country Health Service, SIHI is the single biggest investment in country health in the State's history. A recent evaluation report shows country people in the regions covered by SIHI are receiving safer, better and more reliable health care, with significant improvements in emergency care and access to GPs.



- Legend**
-  District Hospitals
 -  Hospitals
 -  Health Centres
 -  Nursing Post
 -  Public Aged Care
 -  Private Aged Care
 -  Remote Clinics

To read the *SIHI Program Evaluation – Preliminary Key Findings March 2016* report, [click here.](#)

Providing better access to doctors and emergency care

SIHI is significantly improving emergency medical care by using modern technology and supporting more doctors to live and work in the country. There has been a demonstrated 67 per cent improvement in the GP retention rate at the SIHI four year mark, indicative of the program's success in supporting and retaining GPs in regional communities (Rural Health West data).

SIHI is also improving the safety and quality of rural health care by improving medical coverage in WA Country Health Service (WACHS) hospitals and health services and better supporting the medical workforce.

In the Warren Blackwood region, the following SIHI initiatives are contributing to communities having better access to GPs, improved emergency care and a more robust country health service:



Emergency Telehealth Service

Doctors and nurses treating critically ill and injured patients in health service emergency departments (EDs) at Manjimup, Pemberton, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown and Nannup now have access to highly trained emergency specialists in Perth via videoconference, thanks to the Emergency Telehealth Service (ETS).

Find out more about the ETS here. 🖱️ **Watch a video where a former patient describes how the ETS helped to save his life.** 🖱️



Incentives to attract GPs to country towns and participate in Emergency Department rosters

Eligible GPs can receive financial incentives to encourage them to work in the SIHI region and take part in ED rosters at local WACHS facilities. These incentives are in addition to the support packages provided by local government.

In Manjimup and Bridgetown, SIHI funds GPs to be available on call to attend the ED. SIHI also provides incentives to a number of GPs to provide anaesthetic, obstetric and surgical services at the Manjimup and Bridgetown Health Services.



New district medical model to encourage GPs to stay in country towns

SIHI is supporting collaboration between GPs, enhanced flexible work options, education and training and collegiate support to encourage attraction and retention of doctors providing services in WACHS facilities, including in the Warren Blackwood region.



Strengthened medical workforce

SIHI supports the medical workforce to enable continuous service reform and delivery of effective and efficient regional emergency support to WACHS facilities, including in the Warren Blackwood region.



Incentives for GPs to provide primary care services and Aboriginal health services

SIHI offers financial incentives to GPs to deliver primary care services and/or Aboriginal health services to the community in the Warren Blackwood region including Boyup Brook, Pemberton, Nannup, Greenbushes and Northcliffe.

Providing health care closer to home

SIHI has significantly increased the range of local health services that bring care closer to home and help people to avoid hospital.

In partnership with non-government and community organisations, SIHI is building a more sustainable rural health system. In the Warren Blackwood region, the following can now be accessed thanks to SIHI:



Outpatient services via telehealth

A free outpatient service for public patients via videoconference for burns, wounds, pain management, speech pathology, dietetics, gastroenterology, neurology, urology, paediatrics and more can be accessed from towns in the Warren Blackwood region including Boyup Brook, Bridgetown, Nannup, Manjimup, Northcliffe and Pemberton with participating specialists in Perth.



Tele-mental Health

Warren Blackwood clients can have appointments with their psychiatrist and/or therapist (psychologist, social worker etc) from their home towns via videoconference, instead of having to make the journey to the regional health centre at Manjimup.



Diabetes Telehealth

A partnership between WACHS and Diabetes WA to enhance diabetes education and clinical services for people across WACHS, including the Warren Blackwood region, using videoconferencing.

Phone 1300 136 588 or visit the [Diabetes WA website](#). 🖱️





Artist's impression of the new Warren Health Service.

Providing upgrades to hospital and health service facilities

SIHI is investing \$300 million to upgrade 37 hospital and health service facilities across the Wheatbelt, South West, Midwest and Great Southern.

Upgrades will support the delivery of health care services that will better match the needs of their communities and conform to all current compliance and security standards.

Thanks to SIHI, a brand new \$39 million health service is being built in Manjimup to replace the existing hospital. The new Warren Health Service will include a state-of-the-art Emergency Department, an inpatient ward, surgical services, an operating theatre, medical imaging, pathology, outpatient services, primary health care services and support services.

Forward works are now completed and included erection of construction site fencing, demolition of old buildings, redirection of underground services and land clearing.

The tender for the main works is expected to be awarded in August 2016 with construction on the main building works to commence soon after and be completed by mid-2018.

In the South West, in addition to the new Warren Health Service being built, the Collie Health Service is being redeveloped as part of the Southern Inland Health Initiative's capital works program.

Telehealth bringing specialist services closer to home

A wide range of specialist outpatient services can now be accessed via telehealth in the Warren Blackwood region including Boyup Brook, Bridgetown, Nannup, Manjimup, Northcliffe and Pemberton without patients having to travel to Perth.

These 'virtual' appointments are conducted every day between people based in regional WA with public hospital specialists based in Perth using high definition videoconferencing equipment, saving patients' time away from home, money and the inconvenience of having to travel.

A 48-year-old shearer based in the South West who was a long term inpatient at Royal Perth Hospital (RPH) was able to benefit from the outpatient service via telehealth close to where he was living and working.

He had a very serious skin condition and after an extended period as an inpatient at RPH, was finally discharged to the local regional hospital and then as an outpatient, with supervision provided by RPH plastic surgery via telehealth.

This meant he was able to return home, return to work and schedule his outpatient appointments at his local hospital via videoconference, without having to repeatedly take time off work and organise transport and accommodation in Perth for a short specialist appointment.

He has now moved to a different part of the state and has his skin condition under control. He has continued as a telehealth patient of the RPH Plastics service from a different telehealth location.

Outpatient services currently being conducted via telehealth include burns and wound clinics, pain management, speech pathology, gastroenterology, neurology, urology, paediatrics and many more.

To find out more about outpatient appointments via telehealth, contact the South West Regional Telehealth Coordinator on 9722 2795.



Diabetes services make accessing expert advice easy

The Southern Inland Health Initiative is investing more than \$2 million providing services and programs in regional WA to tackle the increasing incidence of diabetes.

One of these services, Diabetes Telehealth, was launched in April last year. The service delivers diabetes education to regional clients via videoconferencing with health service professionals, reducing the need for patients to travel long distances to seek support.

Retired farmer John McDougall has taken charge of his diabetes thanks to the Diabetes Telehealth service.

Developed through a partnership between the WA Country Health Service and Diabetes WA, the service fills the gaps where diabetes educators are not available or not easily accessible to regional clients.

Mr McDougall didn't feel he needed much help with managing his diabetes, but was interested to try out the Diabetes Telehealth service.

“Because of the video-conference [with the diabetes educator], I became more interested in my own health - it's not good being in denial for any of these health issues, and it definitely overcomes the problem of availability to doctors,” Mr McDougall said.



Retired farmer John McDougall

He said he had discovered that diabetes treatment had changed over the years and he had learnt new ways of managing his medication.

To find out more about Diabetes Telehealth, contact 1300 136 588.

Your local District Health Advisory Council (DHAC)

The local District Health Advisory Council (DHAC) works in partnership with the WA Country Health Service to improve the delivery of health services in their health district.

As consumers, carers and community members, DHACs are able to share their and others experiences with local health service providers to help them make better health service decisions and deliver consumer

centred care and services. To find out more, visit www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au and search 'District Health Advisory Councils'.

Your DHAC chairperson in the Blackwood region is Philippe Kaltenrieder who can be contacted on 9765 1082 or email pkerm1@gmail.com

In Warren your DHAC chairperson is Ray Curo who can be contacted on 9771 1036 or email curo-ray@bigpond.com