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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Ms Pamela Michael

On behalf of the Board, I am honoured to deliver the Child and Adolescent Health Service 2024–25 Annual Report which reflects the achievements, challenges and aspirations that have shaped our service over the past year.

At the Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS), our purpose is clear: to help children and young people across Western Australia live their healthiest, happiest lives – today and for generations to come. Every decision we make and every service we deliver is grounded in this commitment.

We are proud to be a trusted and respected leader in child and adolescent health – a service dedicated to delivering exceptional care in genuine partnership with children, young people and their families. Their voices guide us, their needs shape us, and together we work to ensure that every child and young person is supported to thrive.

The CAHS Board provides governance and strategic oversight across all our services and activities, ensuring excellence in paediatric health care and research remains at the heart of everything we do.

We are unwavering in our commitment to providing an equitable and comprehensive service, ensuring that every child and young person and their families has access to the right care, at the right time, no matter their circumstances.

This year, our progress has been guided by the CAHS values of accountability, equity, respect, excellence, compassion and collaboration. These values underpin our strategic priorities and shape the culture of our service.

A highlight of the year was CAHS becoming the first Western Australian public health service provider to undergo a Short Notice Accreditation Assessment Pathway (SNAAP) assessment. I am delighted that the national assessors provided exceptional feedback, a true reflection of the professionalism, dedication and compassion of our staff, as well as our steadfast commitment to continuous improvement and the highest standards of care.

We continue to embrace reform to meet the growing demand for mental health and child development services, and to strengthen our capacity through investment in health facilities, infrastructure, and our workforce. These changes are critical to ensuring CAHS remains responsive and resilient in the face of emerging needs.



At CAHS, our purpose is clear: to help children and young people across Western Australia live their healthiest, happiest lives – today and for generations to come.



Working in paediatric health care is a profound privilege and great responsibility. It requires not only technical excellence and expertise, but also deep empathy, resilience, and at times, extraordinary grace under pressure. None of our achievements would be possible without the dedication of our exceptional staff and volunteers, who give so much of themselves in the service of children, young people and their families. To each of you, I extend my deepest gratitude.

I also thank our community, consumers, partners and stakeholders for their collaboration and shared commitment to improving health outcomes for children and young people in Western Australia. Together, we are stronger.

I wish to acknowledge Dr Rosanna Capolingua AM, the outgoing Board Chair, for her outstanding leadership, professionalism and unwavering commitment to CAHS.

I also extend my thanks to my fellow Board members for their leadership, collective wisdom and guidance throughout the year.

And finally, to the children and young people we serve, you are at the heart of all that we do. You inspire us every day, and are the reason we are driven to deliver the very best health care for you and future generations.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Mrs Valerie Buić (née Jovanovic)

I am delighted to present the 2024–25 Annual Report for the Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS). It is a privilege to be part of an organisation so deeply committed to supporting children and young people across Western Australia in living happy, healthy lives.

As the state's only dedicated paediatric health service, CAHS is trusted by families for our expert care, pioneering research and unwavering focus on placing children, young people and families at the centre of everything we do.

Over the past year, CAHS supported more than 1.2 million interactions with children and young people. These included child health checks, school assessments, Emergency Department visits, surgeries and mental health care. Each interaction reflects the scale of our service, and the trust placed in us by families across the state.

To improve access to essential services for families, we opened the Midland and Murdoch Community Hubs, creating welcoming spaces where a variety of child health services are available in one convenient location. We have also expanded our child development services to support earlier assessment and intervention, helping children with developmental challenges get the best possible start in life.

Mental health care has also continued to progress through the introduction of Acute Care and Response Teams, the rollout of Crisis Connect, and broader reform efforts. Virtual and home-based services have expanded, including telehealth, Hospital in the Home, and the Hospital Anywhere Physiotherapy Initiative, bringing care directly into homes and communities.

Building on this momentum, theatre capacity at Perth Children's Hospital has been increased to help reduce surgical wait times, and innovative new pathways and resources have been developed to improve the ADHD assessment process and provide tailored support for neurodivergent children and their families.

We have strengthened our collaboration with consumers, drawing on their lived experiences to shape more responsive and inclusive services. This year, we introduced the Community Ambassador Program and launched targeted initiatives to promote Aboriginal health equity, including a pilot in the Emergency Department and a new model of care delivered within the community.

All of our achievements at CAHS are made possible by the remarkable people who make up CAHS. Across every service area, our workforce brings together expertise, compassion and a deep commitment to the wellbeing of children and families.



Our vision is a future where every child has access to the care and support they need to reach their full potential.



With internationally recognised clinical excellence and a workplace culture that fosters collaboration and care, we continue to attract and retain outstanding professionals who bring our values to life.

We are also supported by dedicated volunteers whose generosity and spirit enrich our services and bring comfort and joy to those we care for. To our internal and external partners, thank you for your collaboration, insight and ongoing support. Your contributions are essential to our success.

CAHS remains committed to building on our achievements, embracing innovation and working together to create a lasting impact.

Our vision is a future where every child has access to the care and support they need to reach their full potential.

Together, we are making that future a reality.



Executive summary

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