



The CAHS Strategic Plan 2023–2025 sets out our vision for where we expect to be in the future and the actions we will take to get there.

Underpinned by our 8 strategic priorities, the plan describes our approach to investment and focus in the communities we serve, in our workforce, and in our capabilities as a health service.

This section is a summary of our key achievements this year.

STRATEGIC PLAN PERFORMANCE





Strategic priority

PERSON-CENTRED CARE



We will meaningfully engage and partner with children, young people and their families. We will place them at the centre of every decision and provide care that is based on their needs and preferences.

We place children, young people and families at the centre of care. By listening and partnering with them, we deliver flexible, tailored services that support informed choices and better outcomes.

We have succeeded when

- ✓ our consumers report their experience and satisfaction as high
- ✓ children, young people and their families are always connected to services when needed.

Real talk: Youth-led videos break down mental health support at CAMHS



A new video series is helping young people feel more confident and informed about accessing mental health support at CAMHS.

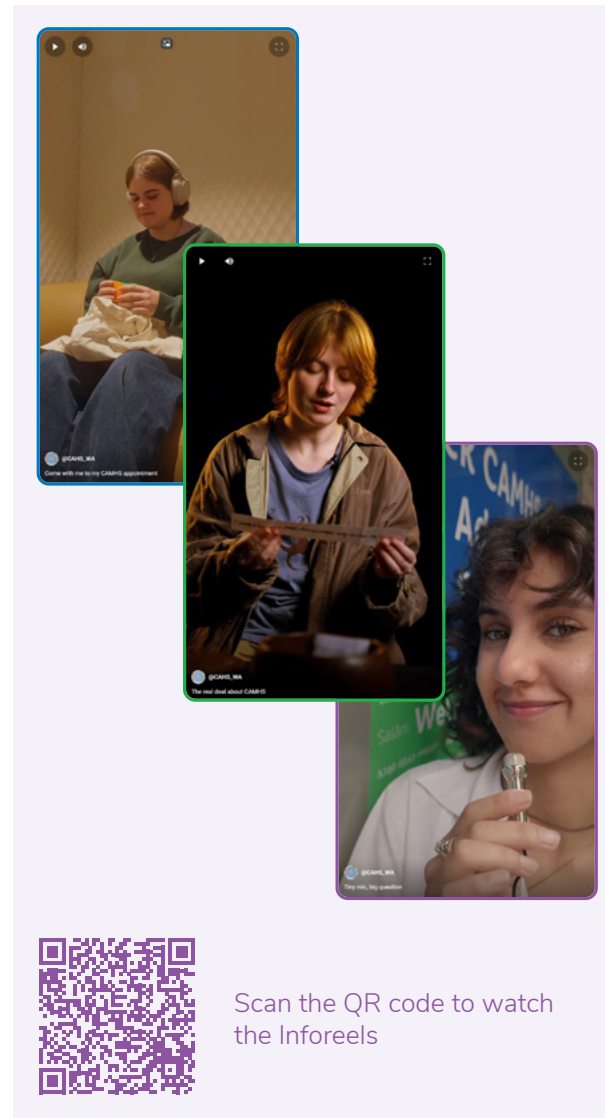
Inforeels is a creative, youth-led project designed for 14–17-year-olds referred to CAMHS community services. Funded by the CAHS Innovation Challenge, the project was co-designed with 6 young people and supported by passionate CAMHS staff.

The result has been a series of short, social media-style videos that speak directly to young people answering common questions, showing real CAMHS spaces, and breaking down the stigma around seeking help.

Filmed at Warwick CAMHS and Midland Community Hub, the videos include:

- The real deal about CAMHS: Honest insights into what CAMHS is really like
- Come with me to my CAMHS appointment: A walk-through of what to expect
- Tiny mic, big question: Quick-fire Q&As with a youth twist.

Because they were made by young people, for young people, these videos feel real, relatable and inclusive. They're helping to make mental health support feel less scary and more accessible.



Scan the QR code to watch the Inforeels



New video resource welcomes families to the neonatal unit



CAHS has launched a new video to help parents feel more informed and supported as they begin their journey in the neonatal unit at KEMH.

This short, engaging video was developed in collaboration with parents, neonatal staff and the CAHS Communications team. It provides a clear overview of what families can expect, the services available and the support offered during their time in the unit.

The video is designed to offer reassurance and practical guidance, helping families feel more confident and prepared and reflects our commitment to improving the experience of care through accessible, family-centred communication.



Scan the QR code to watch the Welcome to the Neonatal Unit video

Hospital in the Home: Bringing care to families



The CAHS Hospital in the Home (HiTH) program continues to grow bringing hospital-level care directly to children in the comfort of their own homes.

HiTH provides acute care and clinical interventions for children who would otherwise need to stay in hospital. This year, the program expanded with 3 new pilot initiatives in respiratory physiotherapy, pharmacy and remote monitoring, making it easier for more families to access care at home.

Highlights from the year:

- The respiratory physiotherapy pilot reduced hospital stays by 25 per cent in its first year and received high praise from patients and families.
- The pharmacy and remote monitoring pilots are already showing promising results, improving patient flow and easing demand at PCH.
- More than 740 children received care through HiTH this year — reflecting its growing popularity and impact.

To meet rising demand, CAHS has also adapted existing spaces to support more telehealth and home-based consultations, ensuring families continue to receive safe, timely and effective care, right where they need it most.



HAPI expands physiotherapy access for regional youth

Children and young people in regional WA are receiving physiotherapy care closer to home thanks to the Hospital Anywhere Physiotherapy Initiative (HAPI), a CAHS outreach program designed to reduce barriers to specialist care.

HAPI delivers physiotherapy through a flexible model that includes virtual consultations, treatment at local hospitals and home-based care via CAHS' Hospital in the Home service. This approach ensures families in remote areas can access high quality care without the burden of long-distance travel to Perth.

Since its launch, HAPI has:

- supported 11 admissions
- delivered 117 days of care
- provided 182 physiotherapy sessions, including 24 sessions in collaboration with WA Country Health Service therapists.

The program has reached families across the Pilbara, Kimberley, Wheatbelt and Goldfields regions, with strong feedback from families who value the convenience, continuity and quality of care.

HAPI is helping to improve patient flow, reduce pressure on metropolitan services and ensure that regional children receive timely, effective physiotherapy support – right where they live.

Stepping up Virtual Care at CAHS



At CAHS, we're always looking for innovative, accessible and patient-centred ways to deliver care so families can get the support they need, wherever they are.

One area making a big impact is virtual health care, and CAHS is proud to be leading the way.

Currently, around one-third of our outpatient services are delivered virtually, helping families across WA access care more easily and conveniently.

CAHS Virtual Care (telehealth) connects patients with health professionals safely and efficiently, helping to reduce travel, avoid unnecessary in-person visits and improve overall access to care.

Highlights from this year:

- Virtual outpatient delivery has grown significantly with 30 per cent of appointments conducted virtually.
- New digitally-enabled and family-friendly autism assessment suites have opened at Murdoch, Midland and Gosnells.
- Digital appointment reminders have helped reduce Did Not Attend rates, allowing more children to be seen and improving service efficiency.
- Culturally responsive design: Aboriginal artist Tyrown Waigana's artwork brightens PCH telehealth clinic rooms, creating a welcoming atmosphere.
- Repurposed spaces: Meeting rooms at PCH have been converted to meet growing demand for telehealth consultations.



Around one-third of our outpatient services are delivered virtually, helping families across WA access care more easily and conveniently.



BIG BOOST FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Exciting changes are underway for the metropolitan Child Development Service (CDS), which supports children with developmental delays or difficulties through assessment and early intervention.

This year, the State Government has committed \$30.4 million to expand and reform the CDS, meaning more children will be able to access services faster, with shorter wait times and more time spent with clinicians.

These reforms are part of CAHS' response to the Select Committee into Child Development Services recommendations. The CDS team is working closely with families, the WA Country Health Service, the Department of Health, and other partners to co-design improvements that make services more accessible, equitable and family-friendly.

Families will benefit from:

- easier access to services, no matter where they live
- practical strategies and information they can use while waiting for assessment or intervention
- a more efficient and responsive service experience.

This is a major step forward in supporting the developmental needs of WA children – and we're proud to be part of the journey.



MORE TASTY CHOICES ON THE MENU

From sensory meals to bedside delivery and traditional foods, PCH is making mealtimes more inclusive, comforting, and culturally responsive for every family.



Sensory meals support neurodivergent patients

Mealtimes in hospital can be challenging – especially for neurodivergent children and young people with heightened sensory sensitivities. That's why PCH has introduced sensory meal options designed to make eating less stressful and more enjoyable.

These new meals were developed in response to feedback from families and nursing staff, and created through a collaboration between PCH Food Services, Dietetics and members of the community.

Many neurodivergent patients experience challenges such as limited food preferences, difficulty trying new foods and discomfort when different foods touch on the plate.

The new sensory meals are designed with these needs in mind. These meals are nutritious, tasty and served with each component separated, so children can enjoy food in a way that feels right for them.

Early feedback from families has been overwhelmingly positive, indicating less mealtime stress and more comfort. The result is better support for health and wellbeing.

Meal delivery trial at PCH

PCH is trialling a meal delivery service to support parents and carers who are unable to leave their child's bedside.

The initiative, currently running on 2 wards, was developed in response to feedback from families who shared how difficult it can be to access food while staying close to their child. In collaboration with hospital food vendors, PCH explored ways to offer more compassionate and convenient food options on the wards.

Using a QR code included in patient admission packs, families can order a variety of meals such as sushi, salads, sandwiches, hot dishes and drinks through the food vendor online platform. Once the order is ready, a mobile notification is sent and meals are delivered directly to the ward entrance for easy collection.

Early feedback has been very positive, with families appreciating the ease and comfort the service provides. PCH is now reviewing the pilot with a view to expanding it to additional wards.

This trial reflects our ongoing efforts to improve the hospital experience for families.

Enhancing cultural inclusion through food

PCH has introduced culturally appropriate food options for Aboriginal children and young people, following a review of the hospital's inpatient menu.

In collaboration with Aboriginal Liaison Officers and Edith Cowan University dietetics students, PCH conducted yarning sessions with Aboriginal families to better understand their experiences and preferences around hospital food. These conversations highlighted the need for more culturally relevant and familiar meal options. The menu now includes traditional Aboriginal foods – most notably, kangaroo stew – now available as a daily option.

The meals are designed to be both nutritious and culturally meaningful, supporting a more welcoming and inclusive hospital environment.

This initiative aligns with the broader efforts throughout all of CAHS to improve the experience of care for Aboriginal children, young people, and families.

Early feedback has been very positive. More recipes are being developed based on community input.



CAHS 2024 Diwali celebrations

Strategic priority

INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY



We will respect, embrace and champion the diversity of our community. We will uphold equal opportunity and we will not tolerate racism or discrimination. Our care will be culturally safe and inclusive for people who are Aboriginal, culturally and linguistically diverse, LGBTIQ+SB* or who have disability, and we will work towards equal health outcomes.

We provide culturally safe, inclusive care and do not tolerate discrimination. By embracing diversity and listening to our community, we create welcoming services and work toward equal health outcomes for all.

We have succeeded when

- ✓ there is greater diversity in our workforce
- ✓ we better understand the diversity of our consumers and improve the cultural safety of our health service
- ✓ Aboriginal children and young people report a high level of cultural safety and inclusivity with our services.

*Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual, Sistergirl and Brotherboy.



Building on success: new Social Stories developed

Following the strong uptake and positive feedback from our initial Social Stories resources we've expanded our collection with 6 new topics designed to support neurodivergent children and young people during visits to the PCH ED.



These new Social Stories cover:

- ear and throat examinations
- immunisations
- nitrous gas sedation
- why there might be a wait in the ED
- meeting ED staff
- having an x-ray.

Each resource is photo-based and highly visual, offering step-by-step guidance to help children better understand what to expect in the ED. By making hospital procedures more familiar, these tools aim to reduce anxiety and empower young patients to feel more at ease.

Social Stories – which were downloaded nearly 3,000 times from the PCH website over the past year – are created especially for children with autism, other forms of neurodivergence, and those who speak English as an additional language. Social Stories are part of the Neurodiversity Care Program, a collaboration between the PCH ED and KKIND (Keeping Kids in No Distress).



Scan the QR code to see our Social Stories library

Celebrating Wear it Purple Day at CAHS

CAHS proudly celebrated Wear it Purple Day, showing our ongoing support for LGBTIQ+SB young people and reinforcing our commitment to creating a safe, respectful and inclusive environment.

As Western Australia's lead health agency for young people, we have a responsibility to champion the rights of LGBTIQ+SB youth. When young people and their families feel safe and supported, they are more likely to access our services and experience better health outcomes.



This year's celebrations included staff morning teas, information sessions, welcoming signage and plenty of purple. Staff were encouraged to wear purple as a visible show of support and solidarity.

In the lead-up to the day, CAHS staff and consumer representatives from the LGBTIQ+SB community generously shared their lived experiences. Their stories helped raise awareness and deepen understanding of the challenges and strengths within the community.

Wear it Purple Day is more than a celebration. It is a reminder of the importance of visibility, inclusion and empowerment for young LGBTIQ+SB people across our health services.

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Recognising Aboriginal significant dates across CAHS

Throughout the year, CAHS has proudly taken part in a range of Aboriginal significant dates and events. These moments have provided meaningful opportunities to celebrate the culture and contributions of Aboriginal peoples, while continuing to foster a culturally safe and inclusive workplace.



National Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week

Under the theme *Bridging Now to Next*, staff across CAHS came together for a series of powerful and reflective activities. Highlights included a Welcome to Country, a water ceremony, a screening of *We Were Just Little Boys* followed by a panel discussion, cultural displays and stalls at PCH, shared staff lunches, choir performances and Noongar language lessons.



NAIDOC Week

This year's celebrations were vibrant and community focused. Events included a Kids' Rainbow Bridge Walk, weaving and language workshops, community stalls, a panel session and choir performances.

At KEMH, staff enjoyed a damper cook-off, Welcome to Country, smoking and flag raising ceremonies, NAIDOC awards and a performance by the Mungart Yongah Dance Group.



National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

PCH hosted a joyful event in the hospital atrium featuring visitor displays and interactive activities. The day celebrated togetherness and highlighted the importance of supporting Aboriginal children to feel proud and connected to their culture, stories, kin and communities.

These events continue to strengthen our commitment to reconciliation and cultural safety across CAHS.

BOOSTING ABORIGINAL HEALTH EQUITY

A new pilot program at PCH is helping improve cultural safety and health equity for Aboriginal families by employing Aboriginal Health Practitioners (AHPs) in the ED.

AHPs work alongside clinical teams to provide culturally safe care, conduct health assessments, share health information and support referrals. Their presence builds trust, strengthens cultural understanding and improves patient experiences.

The impact has been clear. Patients, families and staff have praised the empathy, dedication and cultural insight AHPs bring to their roles.

Since the pilot began, AHPs have supported care for more than 400 Aboriginal children, as well as non-Aboriginal patients. Consumer consultation is now underway to guide future development and strengthen service delivery.





Strategic priority

ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE



We will continue to shape our culture, so we live our values, realise our aspirations, and create a workplace where our people feel safe, included, respected and valued.

We are building a values-driven culture where staff feel safe, respected and supported. United by our focus on children, we foster a positive environment that delivers compassionate, high quality care.

We have succeeded when

- ✓ we live our values consistently
- ✓ there is an increase in staff engagement, satisfaction and wellbeing.



Creating a safe and positive workplace

CAHS has launched the Safe and Positive Workplace Behaviours program to support a culture where all staff feel safe, respected and valued.

The program defines what safe and respectful behaviours look like, how to give and receive constructive feedback, and how to address concerning behaviours early. It also provides clear guidance and pathways for support and formal resolution when needed.

Staff and managers have access to practical toolkits and interactive workshops. The program is adapted from a successful initiative at Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital.

Supporting trauma-informed care

To strengthen our ability to support people experiencing trauma, CAHS delivered specialist training in Psychological First Aid to managerial staff.

Psychological First Aid is an evidence-based approach that helps reduce distress after a traumatic event. It focuses on connection, calmness and recovery, encouraging support from colleagues, family and friends.

Facilitated by the Work Health, Safety and Wellbeing team with a clinical psychologist, the training equipped 154 of our managers with practical tools to respond with empathy and confidence.

Celebrating our people

We are proud to recognise and celebrate the exceptional contributions of our staff and volunteers through our expanded Stars of CAHS recognition and reward program.

The program highlights individuals and teams who go above and beyond in delivering outstanding care and service, reflecting our core values of compassion, collaboration, equity, respect, excellence and accountability.



Dr Melanie Yeoh, winner of the Stars of CAHS Consumer Award this Bunuru season

Stars of CAHS – Bimonthly recognition

To provide more frequent opportunities for recognition, the program has transitioned from a quarterly to a bimonthly format, aligning with the 6 Noongar seasons. This culturally significant change allows us to celebrate achievements in a way that resonates with our local context.

Nominations can now be submitted by peers or consumers, across a range of categories, ensuring a broad and inclusive approach to recognising excellence.



Dr Arne Speidel and Dr James Wiffen, winners of the Stars of CAHS Consumer Award this Djeran season

CAHS Annual Excellence Awards

In June 2025, we launched the inaugural CAHS Annual Excellence Awards, celebrating outstanding service and achievement across 12 categories. This event honoured those who consistently demonstrate excellence and embody the values that define CAHS. See page 21 for the full list of winners.

Everyday Peer Recognition

In addition to formal awards, the Everyday Peer Recognition tier remains open year-round. This initiative empowers staff and managers to acknowledge the daily efforts and positive impact of colleagues, fostering a culture of appreciation and continuous recognition.

Together, these initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to valuing and celebrating the people who make CAHS a place of excellence and compassion.



Strengthening integrity at CAHS

CAHS is committed to transparency, accountability and zero tolerance for fraud and corruption. Staff are strongly encouraged to report any suspected misconduct, with clear processes in place for investigation and resolution.

This year, the CAHS Fraud and Corruption Control System was reviewed and aligned with Australian Standard AS8001-2021 to support ongoing improvements in integrity and prevention.

Key actions include:

- targeted internal audits in high-risk areas like procurement and contract management
- increased communication around mandatory declarations of gifts, benefits and interests
- continued monitoring of the Integrity and Ethics work plan.

Staff and the public can report concerns through multiple channels, including Human Resources, the Integrity and Ethics team, Public Interest Disclosure or external bodies.

CAHS also works closely with the Corruption and Crime Commission, the Public Sector Commission and the WA Health Integrity Working Group to strengthen integrity partnerships.

Staff engagement helps shape a great workplace culture

At CAHS, we know that listening to our people is key to building the kind of workplace culture we all want to be part of. When we understand what matters to our staff, we're better equipped to support each other and deliver outstanding care to children, young people and families across Western Australia.

This year, we connected with more than 500 employees and volunteers to hear their thoughts on how we can create a more positive and supportive work environment. We asked what's working, what could be better, and how we can improve the experience of working at CAHS.

The feedback we received played a big role in shaping our new Employee Voice Culture Framework. This framework lays the groundwork for co-designing our Culture Action Plan 2026–2030, which will guide us in making meaningful improvements to our workplace culture over the coming years.

CAHS connects at WA Multicultural Expo

The CAHS Talent Acquisition team proudly joined the inaugural WA Multicultural Expo at the Perth Cultural Centre to connect with culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Hosted by the Office of Multicultural Interests, the event brought together multicultural groups, government agencies and community organisations. CAHS staff spoke with attendees about child health, community care and equitable access to health services, especially for new arrivals to Australia.

The team also promoted career pathways in health care, offering guidance and resources to those interested in joining the sector. Many attendees expressed strong interest in learning more about health services, training and employment opportunities.

“When we understand what matters to our staff, we're better equipped to support each other and deliver outstanding care to children, young people and families.”

LIVING OUR VALUES WEEK AT CAHS

CAHS celebrated its fifth annual Living our Values Week, bringing staff together to reflect on and strengthen our shared commitment to compassion, excellence, collaboration, accountability, equity and respect.

The week sparked meaningful conversations and featured a variety of values-themed activities, including bake-offs, masterclasses, workshops, shared meals, a yarnning circle and the always-popular Funky Friday dress-up day.

Living our Values Week continues to be a vibrant reminder of the culture we're building together.





Strategic priority

HIGH PERFORMANCE



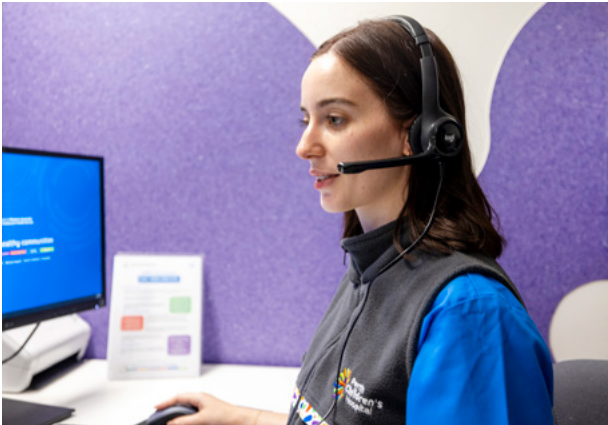
We will continuously improve how we work by setting clearer expectations, strengthening our clinical governance, and by better using data, benchmarking and performance reporting.

We drive continuous improvement through clear expectations, strong governance and data-informed decisions. Research, innovation and planning help us deliver better care and meet evolving health needs.

We have succeeded when

- ✓ there is consistent achievement of performance targets
- ✓ there is a reduction in preventable harm
- ✓ children and young people access the right services, at the right place and at the right time.

Crisis Connect to go statewide



Crisis Connect, a vital support service for children and young people facing mental health crises, is expanding beyond the Perth metropolitan area to reach communities across Western Australia.

Offering phone and online video support, Crisis Connect also provides guidance to families, carers and professionals, ensuring nobody faces a crisis alone. This statewide rollout means every child, young person, and family in WA will soon have equitable access to urgent mental health care, no matter where they live.

The expansion follows direction from the Mental Health Commission. CAHS has formed dedicated steering and working groups to drive the rollout and ensure a smooth transition.

CAHS earns national praise in landmark accreditation assessment

In a major milestone for quality care, CAHS has received glowing feedback from national health care assessors following its first ever Short Notice Accreditation Assessment Pathway (SNAAP) review in July 2024.

As the first WA health service provider to be assessed under the SNAAP model, CAHS set a high benchmark demonstrating our unwavering commitment to excellence and continuous improvement.

Over the course of a week, assessors from the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards visited more than 35 CACH and CAMHS sites, speaking with both clinical and non-clinical staff, and consumers. Assessors also inspected emergency departments, wards and clinics across PCH and the neonatology unit at KEMH.

CAHS met all 151 national accreditation actions – our strongest performance since the standards were introduced. The assessment team praised the consistently high standards across both acute and community care settings.

The assessors were particularly impressed by the CAHS culture and commitment to quality improvements, and expressed admiration for the passion, professionalism, quality focus, collaborative approach, commitment to family-centred care and genuine compassionate nature of our staff.

Research strengthens child’s safety in hospital

We are always looking for ways to improve how we care for children. This year, we took a closer look at how we recognise and respond to early signs of clinical deterioration in children, and how we can do it even better.

After introducing the ESCALATION system at PCH and other paediatric facilities across WA, we led research to see how well it’s working and where we can make improvements. Both health professionals and families have strongly supported this evidence-based approach.

Our research uncovered some great opportunities to refine the system, including:

- asking more targeted questions to better understand family concerns
- adding a new check for confusion or changes in behaviour
- introducing a structured framework for senior nursing reviews
- aligning with the paediatric sepsis pathway.

We have updated staff education to reflect these learnings, and over 80 per cent of nurses and doctors at PCH have completed the training. We’re also working on further improvements to make sure the ESCALATION system better meets the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse and Aboriginal families.





Empowering smarter clinical decisions with the Take 2 – Think, Do Framework

CAHS clinical staff now have a powerful new tool to support decision-making in complex clinical environments. The Take 2 – Think, Do Framework, adapted from the New South Wales Clinical Excellence Commission, is designed to sharpen clinical reasoning and reduce the risk of diagnostic errors.

This framework encourages clinicians to pause and reflect, and take 2 minutes to think critically before acting. It promotes a shared language and structured approach to clinical reasoning, helping teams navigate challenging cases with greater clarity and confidence.

Clinical reasoning describes the thinking and decision-making processes associated with clinical practice. It involves gathering and analysing information to make sound clinical judgments. By strengthening this skill, the framework supports excellence in diagnosis and helps reduce the likelihood of missed, delayed, or incorrect diagnoses.

To make adoption seamless, an eLearning package is available, guiding staff on how to integrate the framework into everyday practice.

Driving innovation in health care: Clinical Service Improvement Program

The Clinical Service Improvement Program empowers our clinicians to lead bold, data-driven projects that enhance patient care. This initiative not only fosters innovation but also strengthens leadership and project management skills across medical, nursing and allied health disciplines.

The biannual program is designed to create meaningful, lasting improvements in clinical services. Each project is grounded in research and evidence being shaped by insights from consumers, staff and organisational priorities.

This year CAHS hosted 6 Clinical Service Improvement Program participants spanning medical, nursing and allied health disciplines.

Completed improvement projects:

- Smarter assessments in ED: Enhancing a digital psychosocial tool for adolescents to improve mental health screening
- Faster access to cancer treatment: Reducing wait times for anti-cancer therapy, ensuring timely and effective care
- Collaborative care for complex conditions: Designing a best practice, multi-disciplinary outpatient model for patients with tracheoesophageal fistula and oesophageal atresia.

Ongoing improvement projects:

- Clearer communication: Improving the quality and clarity of ED discharge summary reports
- Continuity of care for adolescents: Strengthening community-based follow-up for Adolescent Medicine patients
- Tech-enabled diabetes management: Exploring the use of mobile phones as medical devices for patients with type 1 diabetes.

The assessment team praised the consistently high standards across both acute and community care settings.



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT ON THE MOVE: MOBILE SERVICE NOW METRO-WIDE

Children and young people across Perth now have greater access to mental health care, right where it is needed. Following a successful pilot, the mobile Acute Care and Response Teams are now operating metro-wide, delivering specialised support directly in the community.

Based at Midland and Murdoch Community Hubs and Warwick CAMHS, these mobile teams are made up of experienced mental health professionals who provide timely, compassionate care to young people experiencing distress without the need for a hospital visit.

The service focuses on early intervention, helping young people build coping strategies and supporting families and carers with tools to manage distress and risk at home.

Since launching in early 2025, the service has already received 167 referrals, highlighting the growing need, and the positive impact, of bringing mental health care closer to home.



Strategic priority

PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION



We will lead and deliver integrated, multi-disciplinary and cross-sector initiatives that target prevention and early intervention for all children and young people, and particularly in Aboriginal health and mental health.

We lead cross-sector efforts that promote healthy behaviours, identify risks early and support better outcomes, with a strong focus on Aboriginal health and mental health.

We have succeeded when

- ✓ the developing child and their family have the greatest opportunity to improve the child's health outcomes
- ✓ we are a leader in delivering initiatives that contribute to closing the gap targets for Aboriginal children
- ✓ we support the provision of primary care for children in local communities to reduce the need for hospital services.



2024 Infant Mental Health Forum



Jill Pascoe, Executive Director of CAMHS, Maureen Lewis, Commissioner of the Mental Health Commission, Dr Vineet Padmanabhan, Director Clinical Services of CAMHS.

The 2024 Infant Mental Health Forum marked the beginning of a new CAMHS initiative to strengthen support for infant mental health.

More than 200 professionals from government and non-government services came together to hear from leading Australian experts in the field.

As part of this broader program, CAMHS is offering foundation training in infant mental health to all clinicians through Emerging Minds, a national organisation dedicated to supporting the wellbeing of Australian infants, children and families.

Chronic pain support and school attendance

A CAHS-led study has found that access to specialist teaching at PCH plays a key role in helping children with chronic pain stay engaged in school.

The research compared support models at PCH and Stanford University Hospital, both of which use cognitive behavioural therapy and offer allied health and medical services.

PCH's model stands out for its strong focus on pain neuroscience education and its integration of a liaison teacher from the School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health to work with the PCH Complex Pain team.

The study highlighted the effectiveness of PCH's collaborative approach, showing improved patient outcomes and efficient use of resources through close teamwork between allied health professionals and education support.

Celebrating 25 years of newborn hearing screening in WA

This year we celebrated a quarter-century of life-changing impact through the WA Newborn Hearing Screening Program. Since its introduction in 2000, the program has helped thousands of babies across the state by detecting hearing loss early and supporting their journey toward strong speech and language development.



To celebrate this achievement, a special event was held to recognise the passionate efforts of medical specialists, teachers of children with hearing loss, Princess Margaret Hospital staff and the Deafness Council.

In 2024 the program screened 98.8 per cent of eligible babies, exceeding the national target of 97 per cent. The service has also grown to include a family support facilitator at PCH, a role that has significantly improved access to early intervention for families.

This milestone is a testament to the dedication of everyone involved and the lasting impact of early hearing screening on children's lives across the state.

Establishing a research centre for rare diseases

The Rare Care Centre is progressing plans to establish a dedicated research centre focused on improving the diagnosis and treatment of children and young people in Western Australia who are living with rare and undiagnosed diseases.

Supported by a grant from the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund, the new centre will be known as the Collaborative Centre for Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases Research and Innovation. It will build on the Rare Care Centre's existing work and provide a platform for advancing clinical care and research.

The centre will aim to:

- enhance diagnostic capabilities and increase access to clinical trials and emerging treatments within Western Australia
- develop and evaluate innovative programs and services tailored to children with rare conditions
- offer professional development opportunities for staff in research and innovation.



Kids Health Matters: Trusted advice from WA's child health experts



The *Kids Health Matters* podcast, produced by CAHS, is quickly becoming a trusted source for families seeking reliable, evidence-based guidance on child health, wellbeing and development.

With more than 8,500 downloads and listeners tuning in from over 50 countries, the podcast is gaining strong momentum and a loyal following.

Hosted by broadcaster and mum of two Dani Shuey, alongside PCH doctor Adelaide Withers and nurse Danielle Engelbrecht, each episode explores topics that matter most to parents. From food allergies and sleep to ADHD and developmental milestones, the podcast delivers expert insights in a warm and accessible format.

Over 11 engaging episodes, *Kids Health Matters* helps cut through misinformation and build parents' confidence by answering commonly asked questions with trusted advice. The podcast takes a consumer-led approach, making child health information easy to understand and relevant to everyday parenting.

Listeners have responded with overwhelmingly positive feedback. The series holds a 5-star rating on Apple Podcasts and Spotify and continues to grow in popularity both locally and internationally.



Kids Health Matters is available via the CAHS website and major podcast platforms



Improving support for families: CACH Nocturnal Enuresis Service review

The CACH Nocturnal Enuresis Service helps families with children over 5 who experience night-time bedwetting.

Delivered by nurses across 10 metropolitan community health clinics, the service combines mat and alarm interventions with behavioural strategies to support children in staying dry overnight. Families receive follow-up care either in person or over the phone.

Families have consistently shared positive feedback about the service. To build on this success, CAHS is reviewing the program to improve access, simplify processes and create an even better experience for families.

Key areas of focus include:

- feedback from staff and consumers
- clinical documentation and equipment processes
- the service model
- data analysis and client journey mapping
- staff training resources
- consumer resources
- service improvement pilots.

This review will help ensure the service continues to meet the needs of families and delivers the best possible outcomes for children.

Smiling Starts dental health program

Smiling Starts is a new initiative focused on improving oral health for children under 5 in Western Australia.

Following a successful pilot in Kwinana and the Avon and Central Wheatbelt region, the program was officially launched at these sites in December 2024, delivering oral health education to families in familiar, child-friendly settings such as playgroups and Child and Parent Centres.



Children identified with oral health concerns during their 12-month health check can be referred by community health nurses. Smiling Starts therapists provide early, minimally invasive treatments to help prevent tooth decay and avoid extractions.

Consumer feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and plans are underway to expand the program.

Smiling Starts is a collaboration between CAHS, the Dental Health Service (North Metropolitan Health Service), WA Country Health Service and the Office of the Chief Dental Officer.



Scan the QR code to visit the Smiling Starts website



The Kids Health Matters podcast ... is quickly becoming a trusted source for families seeking reliable, evidence-based guidance on child health, wellbeing and development.



PCH LEADS THE WAY IN GLOBAL PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE TRIAL

PCH is playing a key role in an international clinical trial testing a new pneumococcal vaccine designed to protect against 21 strains of the bacteria responsible for serious illnesses such as pneumonia, meningitis, sinusitis and bloodstream infections.

In partnership with The Kids Research Institute Australia, PCH is one of 6 Australian sites involved in the study, which aims to enrol more than 1,600 infants worldwide. The new vaccine has already shown promising results in earlier studies and could offer broader protection than the current vaccine, which covers 13 strains.

Four-month-old Eric became the first baby in the world to receive the vaccine as part of the global phase 3 trial.

The large-scale study will compare the new vaccine to a placebo to assess its safety and effectiveness.



PILOT ADHD ASSESSMENT SUPPORTING FAMILIES

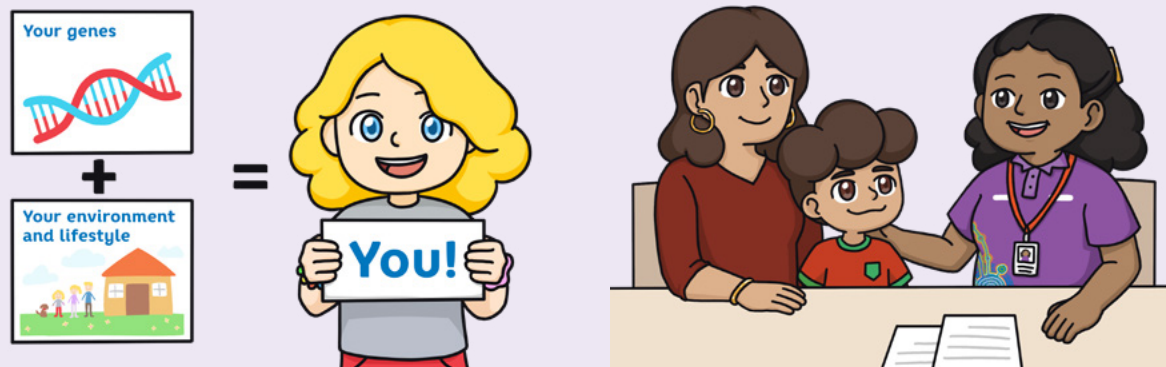
The Attention, Regulation and Concentration (ARC) project is helping children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and their families through a new assessment pathway, delivered in collaboration between nurses and paediatricians.

Piloted at the Armadale Child Development Service, the ARC project involves a senior nurse working alongside a paediatrician to deliver coordinated care.

The pilot was designed to trial an alternative assessment pathway and meet the needs of families of children who experience difficulties with attention, regulation and concentration. Since its launch in January 2024, more than 200 children have been assessed and managed through the pathway.

To further support families, a range of educational resources is being developed to help them better understand and support their child at home, work with schools and help their child with other aspects of development and learning.

These resources were shaped by clinicians with consumer feedback, ensuring they reflect the real needs of families. Plans are in place to translate the materials into multiple languages, making them accessible to a wider community.





Strategic priority

CONTEMPORARY MODELS OF CARE



We will plan and implement models of care that are informed by children, young people and their families, and are grounded in leading practice, research, evidence and data.

We design care models informed by families, evidence and lived experience. By delivering the right care at the right time, we respond to changing needs and improve outcomes for children and young people.

We have succeeded when

- ✓ we provide infant, child and adolescent health services that are responsive to the changing needs of the community we serve
- ✓ research and innovations are successfully translated to improve the services and care we provide.



New theatre suite boosts surgery capacity at PCH



Elective surgery capacity at PCH has increased following the opening of a new theatre suite last year and the recruitment of additional clinical staff.

PCH now operates with 10 general theatres, 2 specialised theatres and an intraoperative MRI. To support the expanded capacity, more nurses, surgeons, anaesthetists and anaesthetic technicians have joined the team.

This expansion is contributing to a gradual reduction in surgery wait list pressures, helping improve access to care for children and families across WA.

New program empowers children to move, heal and grow



Photos courtesy of Perth Children's Hospital Foundation

A new service at PCH is helping children and young people with ongoing health conditions unlock the benefits of physical activity. Move to Improve, launched in August 2024, is an individualised program designed to support children with type 1 diabetes, cerebral palsy, burn injuries and cancer.

The program helps participants overcome barriers to movement through tailored, family-friendly sessions delivered at PCH and in the community.



Children involved in the program have reported increased strength and confidence, reduced fatigue and improved mental wellbeing. Many families have also built lasting connections with local sporting clubs.

With plans to expand the service to include other health conditions, a research project is now underway to explore the program's impact on health and wellbeing outcomes.



Breaking barriers in nut allergy care for young children

Two new pilot programs are offering fresh hope to families of young children with nut allergies, with exciting work happening at PCH.

The ADAPT Oral Immunotherapy (OIT) Program helps babies with peanut allergies build tolerance through small, carefully monitored doses. It's already running in 10 children's hospitals across Australia, including PCH.



PCH is also leading an Australian-first clinical trial for preschoolers with multiple nut allergies. The Low-dose Multi-nut Oral Immunotherapy trial allows children to be treated for up to 6 nut allergies at once, including peanuts, using a gentle and safe approach.

The goal of both programs is to help children achieve remission from nut allergies early in life, ideally before they start school. This can ease the stress and worry for families when their children start school.

So far, more than 100 children have taken part in nut OIT at PCH, and there are plans to expand the program across WA. Parents have shared glowing feedback, saying the experience has helped them feel more confident and in control of their child's allergy journey.

These programs mark a big step forward in allergy care, offering not just medical innovation but real peace of mind for families.

New framework enhances mental health journey

A new framework has been introduced on Ward 5A at PCH to strengthen collaboration between staff, children, young people and families during their mental health care journey.

The Working with Children, Young People and Families Framework encourages open communication and shared decision-making. It provides clear information about the model of care and helps families understand what to expect during admission and treatment.

Co-designed by Ward 5A staff, consumers, carers and the WA Mental Health and Advocacy Service, the framework reflects a shared commitment to delivering respectful, inclusive and family-centred care.

Transforming mental health care for young people

Significant reform is underway at CAMHS. A new model of care is set to reshape how mental health services are delivered for children and young people across WA.

The reform responds to recommendations from the Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents, and follows extensive consultation with young people, families, staff and key partners.

Community teams are transitioning into area networks that will deliver more consistent, integrated and localised care. Each network will have a centralised intake and assessment process, making it easier for families to access the right support at the right time.

The new model also introduces updated approaches to care coordination and continuing care, along with evidence-based interventions for young people with personality difficulties.

Integrated stepped care will be delivered in partnership with specialist mental health teams.

Throughout this transformation, CAMHS remains focused on ensuring smooth transitions between crisis, inpatient, community and specialised care.

CAHS continues to strengthen partnerships with organisations such as the Mental Health Commission, Youth Focus, Holyoake and Orygen to improve outcomes for young people and their families.



Embedding peer support at CAMHS

CAMHS is continuing to strengthen the role of peer support and lived experience in mental health care, helping to create more meaningful connections between staff, young people and families.

This year, CAMHS has led several initiatives to embed peer support across services.

Highlights include:

- a new guideline to help staff and consumers better understand the role of peer support workers
- a formal review and definition of peer worker roles
- a reflective practice policy tailored for peer workers
- an online resource hub with lived experience workforce information
- peer supervision and a Community of Practice to support peer workers
- a pilot peer-led parent and family skills group at Rockingham CAMHS
- the launch of a Lived Experience Workforce Allies Network to strengthen peer work across CAMHS.

Peer support workers also shared their insights at the WA Mental Health Conference and the WA Peer Support Network Conference, highlighting the powerful impact of lived experience in shaping compassionate, person-centred care.

Celebrating strengths in Aboriginal community health care



A new approach to community-based health care is making a real difference for Aboriginal families, focusing on strengths, culture and connection.

The CACH model of care for Aboriginal children has been thoughtfully revised after extensive consultation with families and community stakeholders. These conversations helped identify barriers and shape a model that truly reflects the needs and values of Aboriginal communities.

This updated model takes a trauma-informed and culturally holistic approach, drawing on the deep strengths of Aboriginal peoples' connections to culture, community, Country and family.

At its heart, it is a commitment to supporting and encouraging responsive, nurturing parenting.

When families leave maternity services, their first contact is now with the CACH Aboriginal Health Team. Parents can choose to continue with this team, connect with their local child health nurse or access another service that suits them best.

So far, 73 per cent of families have chosen to stay with the Aboriginal Health Team, showing just how valued and trusted this new approach is.

This model is more than just a change in service delivery. It emphasises the importance of putting culture at the centre of child health services for Aboriginal families. It's a step forward in creating culturally safe, supportive spaces for Aboriginal children and their families.

Spotlight on neonatal sepsis in leading medical journal

A new academic paper is drawing global attention to the challenges of neonatal sepsis, one of the leading causes of death in newborns.

Professor Tobias Strunk, consultant neonatologist at KEMH, was lead author of the article 'Neonatal bacterial sepsis', published in the prestigious journal *The Lancet*.

Co-authored with internationally recognised experts, the paper explores the latest developments in understanding, diagnosing and treating neonatal sepsis.

Alongside pre-term birth, neonatal sepsis is responsible for the highest number of deaths in the first month of life. The paper highlights the difficulties in diagnosing and managing the condition, especially in low and middle-income countries, and points to the lack of a universal definition as a major barrier to research and treatment.

The paper also discusses promising approaches to preventing sepsis in vulnerable newborns, offering insights that could help improve outcomes for infants worldwide.

SEPSIS PROGRAM GAINS MOMENTUM ACROSS WA

The CAHS Sepsis Program is making great strides in improving care for children throughout Western Australia, successfully rolling out the paediatric sepsis pathway and education program in every WA public hospital, with fantastic results.

By 30 June 2025, nearly 2,500 CAHS clinical staff had completed the training. A study is now underway to see how well the pathway is being used and where we can make it even better.

Community involvement has been a big part of the program's success. Thousands of Western Australians have taken part in sepsis awareness events and education activities, especially during Paediatric Sepsis Week, which shines a light on the early signs of sepsis in children.



Supporting families after sepsis

The Post-Sepsis Care Program is an Australian-first initiative that offers ongoing support to children and families after a sepsis diagnosis.

Developed through a co-design process involving researchers, clinicians and families, the program helps identify and address gaps in post-sepsis care.

Delivered by a team of multi-disciplinary clinicians, the program includes:

- discharge support
- virtual follow-ups at key intervals for up to 12 months
- monitoring to support long-term recovery.

This innovative approach ensures families feel supported every step of the way.

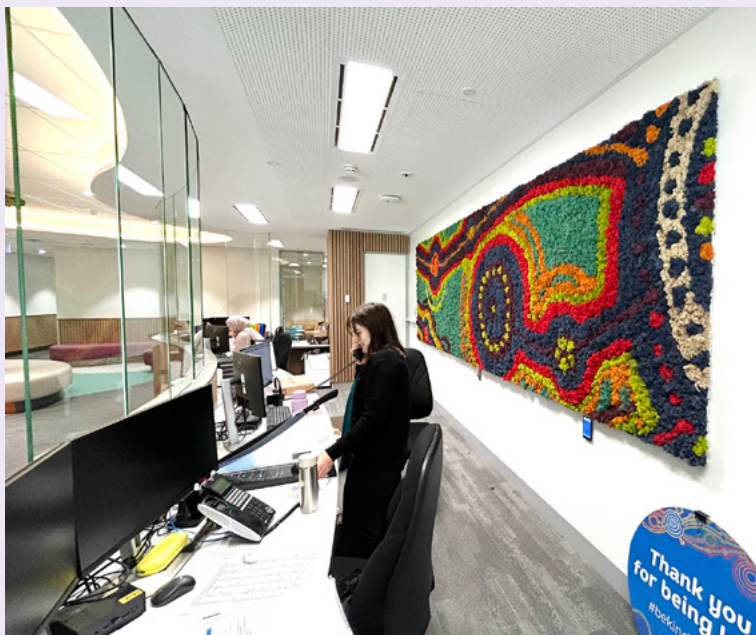
MIDLAND AND MURDOCH HUBS OPEN DOORS FOR CHILD-CENTRED CARE

CAHS has opened 2 purpose-built Community Health Hubs in Midland and Murdoch, making it easier for families to access child health, development, immunisation and mental health services in one welcoming location.

Designed as a one-stop shop, the hubs bring together a range of community-based services under one roof, supporting collaborative, child-centred care that helps children and young people thrive.

Each hub has been thoughtfully designed to be inclusive and welcoming for Aboriginal children and families, featuring site-specific artwork, Noongar naming of clinical spaces and in-language welcomes that reflect the stories and culture of the local area.

These new hubs are a big step forward in making care more accessible, connected and culturally safe for families across WA.





Strategic priority

WORKFORCE CAPABILITY, CAPACITY AND DEVELOPMENT

We will plan for and grow a sustainable workforce whose skills and experiences are harnessed in the best possible way, and create an environment where our people can sustain a balanced work and personal life.

We are building a skilled, supported workforce through strong planning and investment. By fostering growth and leadership, we enable high quality care and create a workplace where people thrive.

We have succeeded when

- ✓ there is a stable and sustainable workforce
- ✓ all staff are supported to participate in training and professional development programs
- ✓ CAHS is recognised as an employer of choice by current and prospective staff.

Strengthening our commitment to Aboriginal health



The Aboriginal Health Champions program continues to grow, helping to improve health outcomes and consumer experiences by building cultural understanding across the CAHS workforce.

The program educates staff on cultural safety and how to deliver care that is respectful, responsive and appropriate for Aboriginal children and families.

This year, CAHS proudly welcomed its 69th Aboriginal Health Champion, marking a significant milestone since the program began in 2023.

To further strengthen the program, Aboriginal Health Ambassador roles were introduced. These ambassadors provide leadership, facilitate Yarning Circles, and offer cultural guidance and education to non-Aboriginal staff.

Yarning Circles are safe, inclusive learning spaces that help staff deepen their cultural competency and deliver more culturally responsive and equitable care to the communities we serve.

Creating a better experience for our junior doctors

CAHS is committed to supporting junior medical officers (JMOs) and creating a workplace where they feel safe, valued and empowered.

A range of new initiatives has been introduced to improve wellbeing, safety and training, including easier access to leave, a dedicated doctors' support guide and a refreshed JMO Orientation Program that now includes health and wellbeing.

CAHS also celebrated JMO Wellbeing Week, reinforcing our focus on building a positive and supportive culture for our medical workforce.

These initiatives are part of the CAHS JMO Action Plan, which aims to ensure junior doctors have the support they need to thrive and continue delivering high quality care to children and families.



**Working Together,
Thriving Together**

To further enhance support, CAHS has launched Doctors' HQ, an online hub offering information on wellbeing, training and leave, along with a secure portal for staff feedback.





Future nurses explore careers at CAHS expo



Hundreds of aspiring nurses visited PCH for the CAHS Nursing Careers Expo, eager to learn more about the rewarding world of paediatric nursing.

Attendees connected with CAHS staff and explored career pathways across our service streams. Information stalls showcased graduate nursing programs, clinical specialisations and resources for those considering a career supporting children, young people and their families.

Guided tours of PCH gave visitors a behind-the-scenes look at WA's only dedicated paediatric hospital, offering a real-world glimpse into the dynamic and compassionate environment our nurses work in every day.

Supporting nurse-led research for better care

In 2024, CAHS launched its first Nursing Research Fellowship, a major step toward strengthening evidence-based, research-led nursing care.

Funded through a 3-year commitment from Telethon, the fellowship gives nurses the opportunity to lead research projects that directly impact their field of practice.

The inaugural fellowship was awarded to Arielle Jolly, Paediatric Critical Care Clinical Nurse, whose FOOTPRINTS project is designing and testing a bereavement service for families who have experienced the unexpected loss of a child in the Intensive Care Unit.

The 2025 fellowship was awarded to Maria Garland, CAMHS Clinical Nurse Consultant. Her research focuses on co-designing a therapeutic intervention for adolescents with anorexia nervosa, targeting alexithymia, also known as emotional blindness.

These fellowships are helping to shape the future of nursing care by supporting frontline clinicians to lead meaningful, practice-based research.

Welcoming the next generation of nurses

CAHS welcomed 112 graduate nurses this year through its [Transition to Practice Program](#), designed to support new registered nurses as they begin their careers.

Graduates joined nursing teams across PCH, Neonatology, Community Nursing and CAMHS, with access to tailored program streams that match their area of interest. The program provides a supportive learning environment that helps build resilience, adaptability and professional skills.

Participants benefit from opportunities to collaborate, share experiences and build networks, setting them up for success as they begin their career in paediatric nursing.

“CAHS is committed to supporting junior medical officers and creating a workplace where they feel safe, valued and empowered.”



PCH LEADS THE WAY IN ALLIED HEALTH CAREER DEVELOPMENT

This year, PCH introduced the Transition to Practice program for allied health professionals – the first of its kind at a tertiary paediatric hospital in Australia.

The program is designed to support early career allied health clinicians as they grow into confident, capable and reflective practitioners. The first intake welcomed 14 graduates from a range of allied health disciplines, offering structured opportunities to build skills, gain experience and strengthen their professional foundations.

Graduates have described the program as highly valuable. After this early success, CAHS is now planning to expand the initiative across the organisation to support even more allied health professionals in their career journey.



Clown Doctors Australia support PCH patients, families and staff.

Strategic priority

EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS



We will develop and maintain mutually beneficial external partnerships to collectively achieve better health outcomes for children and young people.

We build strong partnerships to improve health outcomes for children and young people. By working with others in research, innovation and care, we create meaningful collaborations that benefit families across WA.

We have succeeded when

- ✓ our partners have improved experiences when collaborating on common objectives with CAHS
- ✓ we have established closer working practices with health service providers, health providers, child protection and youth justice services and schools.



Our valued partners

We are proud to work with a wide network of partners who help us support the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families across WA.

In 2024–25, we strengthened relationships with non-government organisations, research institutions and funding bodies.

These partnerships are built on shared values and a commitment to improving health and wellbeing. They support new models of care, modern equipment, play spaces and emotional support, enhancing the experience of care for families.

These contributions complement our clinical services and help create a more holistic and supportive environment.

Our partnerships with research institutions such as The Kids Research Institute Australia, Curtin University, the University of Western Australia (UWA) and Edith Cowan University continue to drive innovation. These collaborations enable our clinical teams to engage in research that informs and improves practice, ensuring we remain at the forefront of paediatric care.

We're incredibly grateful for the generous support of our funding partners, whose contributions help us continue delivering world-class care and innovation.

The Perth Children's Hospital Foundation remains a vital supporter of research and equipment funding, playing a key role in advancing paediatric health care.

We also gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and Channel 7 Telethon Trust, whose commitment helps us provide high quality services and improve outcomes for children and families across WA.

Together, these partnerships form a strong foundation for everything we do. We are proud of the relationships we've built and thankful for the trust and support that allows us to continue making a difference to the lives of WA families.



These partnerships are built on shared values and a commitment to improving health and wellbeing.



Students help build culturally safe care



CAHS welcomed enrolled nursing students from Marr Mooditj Training for clinical placements at PCH. These placements give students valuable experience in paediatric care while supporting the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal families.

The partnership with Marr Mooditj reflects our commitment to creating a culturally safe and inclusive health system. It also helps build a workforce that better represents and understands the communities we serve.

Looking ahead, CAHS is exploring graduate employment opportunities and future placements for Aboriginal Health Practitioners to continue strengthening this important partnership.

WA's first children's hospice takes shape



Render courtesy of Perth Children's Hospital Foundation

Construction is underway on WA's first paediatric hospice, a collaboration between CAHS and the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation. Hospice construction started in November 2024 and is expected to be completed in 2026.

This year, the focus has been on shaping the model of care with input from families and other children's hospices across Australia. More consultation will follow as the hospice moves closer to opening.

The hospice will offer 7 beds, 3 family suites, therapy and playrooms, a bereavement suite,

communal living spaces and a hydrotherapy pool. Families will be welcomed into a warm, home-like space, supported by a dedicated clinical team.

Children will receive round-the-clock care, giving families time to rest. Bereavement support will also be available to families across WA after the loss of a child.

It is our vision and hope that the hospice will be a place of comfort, care and connection for families during some of life's most difficult moments.

Working together to support children in care

CAHS is partnering with the Department of Communities to improve mental health support for children in care. This collaboration is part of a broader effort to update the bilateral agreement between the two organisations.

As part of this work, CAHS has joined forces with the Department of Health and WA Country Health Service to develop an operational escalation pathway. This pathway helps ensure children in care can access the right support when they need it most.

By working together, we're helping create a more responsive and coordinated system for some of WA's most vulnerable children.

New fellowship supports nutrition research in intensive care

Allied health research at CAHS is advancing through the launch of a Telethon-funded fellowship.

As part of the inaugural Allied Health CAHS Research Fellowship, PCH dietitian Tamara Farrell is leading a study into how nutrition affects recovery for critically ill children in paediatric intensive care.

Her research aims to improve outcomes by exploring how targeted nutritional care can support healing during intensive treatment.

MERLIN supercharges AI research at PCH

One of Western Australia's most powerful computers has arrived at PCH, opening new frontiers in child health research.

Named MERLIN, the supercomputer is the result of a collaboration between CAHS and UWA, made possible through funding from the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation.

MERLIN provides researchers with access to a secure artificial intelligence platform and is managed by the Anaesthesia Research team at PCH. It's built to handle complex machine learning projects while safeguarding sensitive medical data.

This cutting-edge technology is already making an impact. MERLIN's first task involves analysing data from more than 10,000 children to identify risk factors for common anaesthesia complications.

Researchers from other CAHS teams including Burns, Rare Diseases, Emergency Medicine and Skin Health, are now launching their own AI-enhanced projects.

Beyond research, MERLIN is helping build AI literacy and capability across CAHS and UWA, empowering teams with dual expertise in medicine and programming to push the boundaries of paediatric care.



Supporting patients with legal challenges

Sometimes legal issues need attention even while someone is in hospital or accessing our services. For vulnerable patients, accessing legal support can be especially difficult. A new initiative is helping bridge that gap.

The Health Justice Partnership brings together CAHS Social Work, Legal Aid WA and the Department of Justice to provide legal services to families within CAHS.

Lawyers are available one day a week at PCH. The Social Work team works alongside Health Justice Partnership lawyers to support families dealing with legal issues that may affect their health and wellbeing.

The initiative was recently recognised with a Silver Award for Best Practice in Collaboration by the Institute of Public Administration Australia WA, highlighting its success in bringing together government agencies to support those in need.



TRANSFORMATIONAL FUNDING BOOST FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH AND TREATMENT

A major step forward in childhood cancer care is underway, thanks to a \$135.5 million commitment from the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation.

Over the next decade, this funding will support research and treatment through a powerful collaboration between PCH, The Kids Research Institute Australia (The Kids), the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation (PCHF) and UWA.

This landmark donation, along with additional support from PCHF, will help establish the WA Comprehensive Kids Cancer Centre. The centre will bring together world-class clinical care at PCH with cutting-edge research from The Kids and UWA.

The vision is bold and clear: to ensure every child with cancer not only survives but thrives.



FLYING FORWARD: IMPROVED NEONATAL TRANSPORT FOR REGIONAL WA

Newborns in regional Western Australia now have improved access to specialist care, thanks to a collaboration between the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), Telethon, and the CAHS Newborn Emergency Transport Service WA (NETS WA).

With support from the Telethon, RFDS helicopters have been upgraded to safely carry neonatal cots. These modifications make it easier for NETS WA to transport vulnerable newborns, including premature babies, from regional hospitals to neonatal units at PCH and KEMH.

The new cot setup is helping reduce transfer times and ensures that families can reach expert neonatology care in Perth more quickly. It's a vital step forward in supporting the health of some of our tiniest regional patients.



HEALTHY PLANET, HEALTHY KIDS

Embedding sustainability for a healthier future

Environmental sustainability is a guiding principle at CAHS. It shapes how we plan, make decisions and carry out our work.

CAHS has set a target of net zero emissions by 2040. Our Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2023–27 is already driving meaningful progress.

This strategy details how CAHS will meet its climate and sustainability targets including requirements set out by the National Health and Climate Strategy, the Western Australian Climate Policy and the WA Emissions Reduction Framework.



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Guiding principle

SUSTAINABILITY

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We use all our resources wisely and are committed to embedding financially and environmentally sustainable work practices for the benefit of future generations.



What we have achieved this year

Building climate-smart capability

- Expanded climate and environmental training for staff
- 8 team members received scholarships for **carbon literacy training** at Edith Cowan University
- Regular presentations helped staff understand the connection between climate change and health.

Driving research and innovation

- Partnered with the Department of Health to advocate for climate-health research
- The **Future Health Research and Innovation Fund** now includes climate change in its funding priorities.

Engaging our community

- Partnered with **Doctors for the Environment** and the **Conservation Council of WA**
- Hosted an event at PCH for staff, children, young people, and families to raise awareness about the link between environment and health.

Strengthening leadership and governance

- Introduced a **Climate and Sustainability Oversight Committee**
- Expanded the **Sustainability Working Group** to support implementation of the strategy.

Greening our transport

- Installed **electric vehicle charging stations** at the CAHS Midland Community Hub
- Ordered our **first electric fleet vehicle** to support the WA Electric Vehicle Strategy.

Measuring what matters

- Continued participation in the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's emissions project
- Our **emissions data** is helping shape smarter, more targeted climate action.

Innovating for impact

- The CAHS Sustainability team won the **CAHS Innovation Challenge**
- Their project focuses on developing an **asset reuse program** to reduce waste and cut emissions.

Rethinking waste

- Repurposed large volumes of COVID-era personal protective equipment across community health clinics
- PCH joined the **Pharmacycle** blister pack recycling program
- Over the past 3 years, recycled more than 36,000 containers through the **Containers for Change** program.



BURNS CLINIC CHAMPIONS GREEN THINKING

How one team turned small steps into big change

At the PCH Burns Clinic, a quiet revolution has been taking place. Led by passionate nurse Michelle Adamson (pictured right), a team of staff set out to answer a powerful question:

Can simple, low-cost changes spark a culture of sustainability in a busy clinical setting?

The answer was a resounding yes.

Over 14 weeks, the clinic rolled out a sustainability improvement project that was as practical as it was inspiring. The goal? To boost staff awareness and shift attitudes toward environmental responsibility. All without breaking the budget.

Three simple actions made a big impact:

- A Green Team was formed, bringing together staff from across disciplines to champion eco-friendly ideas.
- Face-to-face education sessions helped connect the dots between climate change and children's health.
- A vibrant visual display board shared tips, facts, and inspiration to reduce the clinic's environmental footprint.

At the start, staff already cared deeply about sustainability, but many weren't sure how to apply it in their day-to-day roles. The project changed that. With support and practical tools, the team began to see real opportunities for change.

The results spoke for themselves:

- Knowledge and confidence around sustainability increased.
- Single-use plastics were significantly reduced.
- Recycling increased, including new efforts to recycle single-use metals.
- Plastic blueys (absorbent sheets) were swapped for more sustainable alternatives.
- Paper handouts were replaced with QR codes, cutting down on printing.

What started as a small experiment has now become part of the clinic's identity. The Burns Clinic is proving that when staff are empowered and supported, sustainability becomes more than a goal. It becomes a way of working.

LOOKING AHEAD

We are proud of what we've achieved this year, but we are just getting started. From reducing emissions to rethinking waste, CAHS is committed to building a future where healthy kids thrive on a healthy planet.

Together, we're turning sustainability into action, and action into impact.

