

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

This chapter showcases a selection of our achievements, activities and milestones over the last 12 months.

The highlights from across our 3 service areas demonstrate how we are working towards achieving our strategic priorities and improving community outcomes.



OVERVIEW OF OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

CAHS aspires to be a safe, trusted and professional leader in child and adolescent health and wellbeing, and an organisation that truly partners with children, young people and their families to best meet their needs.

We serve all children and young people across WA so they can achieve their best health and wellbeing, now and into the future.

Everything we do at CAHS is underpinned by our strategic priorities. Our strategic priorities guide our decisions in planning, investment and operations. They inform the way we work and provide direction for where we want to be in the future.

Incorporating our priorities into everything we do

The following performance highlight stories demonstrate our progress towards achieving our strategic priorities.

The icons alongside each story reflect the strategic priorities they align to. Many stories feature multiple icons, showing the breadth and inter-connectedness of our operations and how many of our activities at CAHS work towards multiple strategic priorities.



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.



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.



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.



High performance

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



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.



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.



Workforce capability, capacity and development

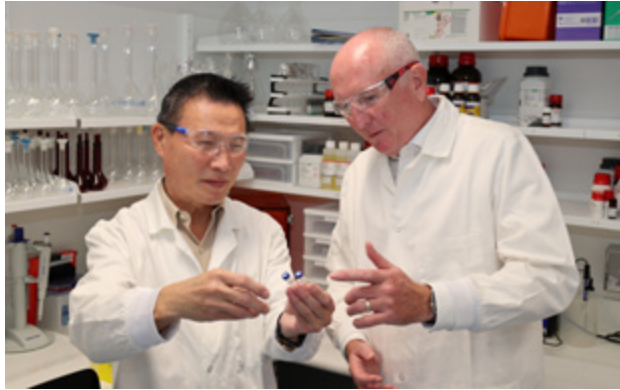
We will plan for and grow a sustainable workforce whose skills and experiences are harnessed in the best possible way, and create an environment where our people can sustain a balanced work and personal life.



External partnerships

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

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS



PCH leads way on medicine supply

Patients around Australia are benefiting from medicines made possible by PCH's specialist pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Perth.

The purpose-built Auspman facility supplies public hospitals around the country with medicines that are not commercially available or cannot be prepared in hospital pharmacies.

The facility supplies more than 35,000 units each year to over 20 health service sites in WA and will soon expand to supply a further 100 hospitals across Australia.

Built to meet contemporary quality and regulatory standards, Auspman showcases the depth of capability, innovation and commitment to ensuring children and young people at PCH – and patients in other Australian public hospitals – have access to the medicines they need.

The facility also plays an important role in supporting clinical trials and research, and strengthening Australia's pharmaceutical manufacturing capability.



Hospice to support compassionate, family-centred care

WA's first dedicated children's hospice, Sandcastles (Boodja Mia), is set to open its doors later this year, representing a significant step forward in compassionate, family-centred care for children with life-limiting conditions.

Designed as a place of comfort, care and support for children and families across WA, the purpose-built hospice will provide a warm, welcoming and home-like environment that respects every child's individuality and every family's unique journey.

Delivered through a partnership between CAHS and the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation, Sandcastles expands the existing specialist paediatric palliative care services. It will offer 24/7 medical and nursing care, flexible respite and symptom management stays, and comprehensive family and bereavement support to families across WA.

Every detail of the hospice has been shaped through consultation with families, clinicians and community members. With thoughtfully designed spaces, including family suites, sensory areas, gardens and therapeutic facilities, Sandcastles promotes wellbeing, connection and moments of joy alongside high-quality, safe and compassionate care.

Integrated glass artworks were developed through creative workshops with WA artists and children, families and volunteers. Outdoor areas have been designed with light, orientation and tranquility in mind, and feature rammed earth walls, native gardens and a nature play zone.

More than a building, Sandcastles is a place where families can spend meaningful time together, supported with dignity and compassion. Sandcastles reflects a shared commitment to delivering contemporary, holistic care and ensuring that every child and family receives the support they need, when they need it.



Celebrating different minds

Listening to and learning from those who engage with CAHS helps us shape a more responsive and inclusive health service that works for everyone.

The youth-led Celebrating Different Minds event at PCH brought young people together with staff, families and community partners to deepen our understanding of neurodiversity and strengthen how we support and embrace neurodivergent children, young people, families and staff across CAHS.

With dynamic speakers, hands-on activities – including an interactive hub for virtual reality experiences – the event provided a special opportunity to connect, learn and celebrate the strengths of neurodivergent children, young people, families and colleagues.

The event covered current approaches, emerging research and personal journeys that increased our understanding of neurodiversity and ways to strengthen inclusion for all who come to CAHS. Members of the CAHS Regulation in a Supportive Environment Consumer Reference Group joined the event and contributed valuable lived experience insights, ensuring discussions were meaningful and centred on neurodivergent perspectives.

Celebrating Different Minds was inspired by CAHS' earlier engagement with young people that explored out-of-the-box thinking on how to support neurodivergent young people.



SET and GO to enhance child development care

A new home-grown innovation is helping CAHS better understand the impact of our child development services on WA families, ensuring children can get the best start in life.

The SET and GO tool was developed by the CAHS Child Development Service (CDS) and draws on years of research with consumers and staff. The tool asks families and caregivers about their confidence and capacity to support their child's development needs after they've received support from CDS.

SET and GO is designed for families whose children present with developmental challenges such as speech and language delays, emotional regulation difficulties, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism.

Families complete a short survey after receiving services which helps assess the results of developmental treatment and care. The survey provides practical insight into what is working well for families and where improvements can be made.

More than 200 families have already used SET and GO. Their experiences and feedback are directly shaping child development care by informing more responsive family-centred services.

The learnings are assisting CAHS to better understand family needs, strengthen service provision and ensure children with developmental delays or difficulties receive practical support that meets their needs at home, in the community and in everyday life.

SET and GO is an important step forward in the evolution of child development intervention, and it highlights the essential role of consumer insight in shaping health services.

Scan the QR code to view the
[SET and GO registration form](#)



Child's eye video supports calmer hospital visits

An innovative video project aims to reassure and prepare young patients and their families for hospital procedures.

Powered by the CAHS Innovation Fund and led by the CAHS Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology team, *Through a child's eyes* explores a child's visit to PCH to have an echocardiogram or heart test.

The video was co-designed with children and families, and takes a fresh, preventative approach to reducing childhood medical trauma and strengthening early relational health.

The story is told from a child's perspective, bringing the hospital experience to life through their eyes. By combining clear, practical guidance with a warm, developmentally appropriate and psychologically informed narrative, the video helps children understand what to expect, while supporting families to feel confident in their role.

Hospital visits can be overwhelming, particularly for young children, who are more vulnerable to stress and uncertainty. *Through a child's eyes* empowers caregivers to better support their child, helping reduce anxiety and create calmer, more positive healthcare experiences.

With its focus on prevention rather than intervention, this practical resource promotes a shared understanding between children, families and clinicians, supporting safer, more child-friendly care across PCH.

The project also reflects strong collaboration across CAHS, having drawn on the expertise of staff from psychology, cardiology, communications and innovation teams.

Scan the QR code to watch
[My echocardiogram - through a child's eyes](#)



New-look ward supports recovery, healing

Young people accessing mental health inpatient services at CAHS are set to benefit from a newly refurbished ward at PCH.

Drawing on the insight of consumers with lived experience of mental health, the recently completed first 'pod' of Ward 5A is designed to provide a safe, comfortable and welcoming therapeutic environment that supports healing and recovery for young people well into the future.

The refurbishment – part of a staged project that will also upgrade the ward's remaining 2 pods – has improved layout, enhanced safety and introduced softer design features to create a comforting space that supports contemporary care.

The new-look ward incorporates fresh artwork designed to evoke positivity, connection and warmth. Featuring calming, muted tones inspired by the WA landscape, the final designs are the result of a unique mentorship project between an established and an emerging artist, and were informed by the perspectives of young people with mental health lived experience.

The refurbishment is a major step towards supporting young people and their families on their journey to better mental health.



HOSPITAL MEALS REIMAGINED

An exciting new approach to hospital meal service is giving children and their families more choice, convenience and flexibility.

Meals on Demand is transforming the PCH mealtime experience by allowing hospital meals to be ordered when patients are hungry, rather than at set times.

The all-day menu was co-designed with more than 1,000 children and families, ensuring meal options reflect what matters most to consumers. Using the new web app, families can order meals in advance from anywhere – at home, at work or by the bedside. QR codes in patient rooms provide quick and easy access.

This patient-first initiative responds to consumer demand for greater menu choice, easy-to-use ordering and a more flexible approach to meal times.

Meals on Demand represents a reimaging of traditional hospital food service, demonstrating how CAHS is adapting to deliver family-centred care that meets contemporary community needs. It's also a national first. PCH is the first Australian paediatric hospital to make on-demand food services available hospital-wide.

Complementing the new changes, Meals on Demand also offers wider menu options that cater to a broad range of nutritional, dietary and cultural needs. From tacos and dhal to tofu dishes and kangaroo stew, the revamped menu was developed following consultation – and taste testing – with children, families, consumer groups and staff. To better support diverse communities, the menu is available in 11 languages.



Coinciding with the Meals on Demand launch, PCH also introduced vibrant artist-designed plates and bowls, adding a pop of colour to hospital-issued dinnerware. Featuring bright designs created by WA artists and chosen by children, the Plateful of Personality project makes mealtimes more fun, and brings moments of colour, creativity and comfort to young patients.

Since its launch in July 2025, Meals on Demand has proved popular – 85 per cent of children and families surveyed prefer the new meal service.

Meals on Demand is also supporting our sustainability goals. With meal preparation now aligned with demand, the new service has reduced food waste by an impressive 25 per cent.



Focus on access and innovation boosts vaccination

Immunisation plays a vital role in protecting the community – including some of our most vulnerable children – against vaccine-preventable diseases. With a focus on innovative approaches and improved accessibility, CAHS is making it easier for WA families to protect their children through immunisation.

Extended community clinic hours and a new online appointment form are giving families greater choice and convenience, while pop-up clinics take vaccination directly to the community. Our newly established Enhanced Vaccination Access team delivers vaccinations to clients in homes, refuges and schools, boosting access for priority populations.

This year we've maintained a vaccination rate of 90 per cent or more for children aged 5 and under attending CACH Immunisation Clinics, exceeding the general immunisation rates for children in this age group.

More than 20,000 HPV vaccinations were administered through the School Based Immunisation Program, with 67 per cent of eligible students vaccinated.

The introduction of FluMist, a needle-free influenza vaccine, is an exciting game changer for many WA families, especially children with needle anxiety. Available to children and young people in WA aged 2 to 17, FluMist is delivered as a gentle nasal spray and provides the same protection against influenza A and B as traditional injectable vaccines.

Through fresh initiatives and tailored approaches CAHS is reducing barriers and giving families more confidence in keeping kids up to date with childhood vaccinations.



Crisis support expands to regions

Young people in regional WA now have access to specialist child and adolescent mental health crisis support following the statewide expansion of the CAMHS Crisis Connect 24/7 telephone line.

CAMHS Crisis Connect provides vital support via phone and telehealth to children and young people experiencing mental health distress, ensuring care is available whenever it's needed. The service is also available to anyone who cares for young people in the community, including families, carers, and medical and education professionals.

This year we've taken major steps forward in making help more accessible to those living outside metropolitan areas.

From September 2025, members of the CAMHS Crisis Connect team visited all WA regions to better understand the unique needs of each region, raise awareness of the service and strengthen referral pathways for children and young people living in the regions.

Since December, the 24/7 crisis response line has been available to all young people up to the age of 18 in WA. Since then we've further expanded the service to provide telehealth appointments to regional emergency departments, and will soon go statewide, so that support is available to all young people in WA.

In the last 12 months the service received more than 11,000 calls to our 24/7 crisis telephone line and provided 171 telehealth consultations for children and young people in WA.

The expanded service is already making a difference to those living outside the metropolitan area: nearly 1,000 contacts were from young people in regional WA.



Theatre boost: Cutting wait times and improving access

This year, meaningful improvements in surgical care have delivered real, everyday benefits for Western Australian families.

By expanding our hospital theatre capacity and strengthening our surgical workforce, we've gone beyond increasing activity – we've improved access in a way that truly matters.

Families are now experiencing shorter waits and greater certainty at critical moments in their care journey. Each reduced wait time tells a human story: a child returning to school sooner, a parent finding relief faster, and households regaining a sense of normalcy.

We've achieved significant improvements in ear, nose and throat surgeries. Over the past year median non-urgent surgical wait times decreased by 43 per cent, from 227 days to 131 days.

Behind the data are the tangible benefits being delivered for WA families as surgical teams provide vital care to more children and young people sooner.

These gains ensure that care is not only safe and high quality, but delivered in a timely manner.



Expanding care at home

The PCH Hospital in the Home (HiTH) program continues to transform patient care by bringing hospital-level care to families in the comfort of their own homes.

By providing home-based care to children who would otherwise need to stay in hospital, HiTH is not only easing pressure on hospital beds, it's redefining how and where care is delivered.

In the last 12 months, our mobile team of healthcare workers provided care to more than 1,500 children at home, representing around 6,700 days in hospital avoided.

Building on our earlier success, this year we expanded the HiTH program to include allied health, making it easier for more families to access services including occupational therapy, dietetics, physiotherapy, social work and speech pathology services at home. This extends care to more WA families with HiTH already provided in respiratory physiotherapy, remote monitoring and pharmacy.

Others are taking note too. Our HiTH remote monitoring service achieved national recognition, winning the Outstanding Patient Innovation Award at the 2025 Patient Australia Awards. Importantly, HiTH has proved a big hit with families, who value the flexibility, convenience and personalised touch that comes with home-based care.

We're continuing to evolve this highly-valued service to reach more WA families through greater access for neurodivergent children and young people, and families in regional areas.



Community hubs celebrate first birthday

Our Midland and Murdoch community hubs celebrated a milestone first year of operation. The hubs give WA families one-stop, easy access to child health, development, immunisation and mental health services.

The hubs bring together CACH and CAMHS services under one roof to better meet the needs of children and young people. The hubs are contemporary purpose-built spaces, staffed by teams of health professionals committed to family-centred care that is connected, coordinated and compassionate.

First year hub highlights in numbers:

Murdoch

- 5,600 CDS appointments, including for 129 Aboriginal families
- 950 clients attended 220 child development group sessions
- 2,700 nursing appointments
- 450 immunisations
- 9,039 Community CAMHS contacts

Midland

- 8,880 CDS appointments, including for 517 Aboriginal families
- 1,353 child health appointments
- 107 drop-in nursing session clients
- 118 parenting support group clients
- 4,434 Community CAMHS contacts.



PREPARING FOR WINTER: COORDINATED CARE WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

Preparation, prevention and coordination are at the heart of CAHS' approach to the busy winter season.

As pressure on health services rises each winter, CAHS is leading a comprehensive program of initiatives to prepare for anticipated demand, promote good health, and provide timely care to children, young people and their families.

The Winter Strategy rolls out a suite of coordinated initiatives designed to keep kids healthy, manage seasonal demand and provide WA families with access to safe, high-quality health care.

Prevention measures have a big impact on improving community health over winter. We've expanded immunisation programs for influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) for consumers and staff to support healthy living and ease the burden on hospital services.

To improve access to care, we've strengthened key services at PCH including allied health coverage, discharge coordination and Emergency Department supports. These initiatives promote more timely discharge, reduce unnecessary time in hospital and ensure children and families receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

Capacity-boosting measures including extended hours in hospital short-stay areas, surge spaces to respond to busy periods, and expanded weekend services are helping to free up beds for those who need them most. Established CAHS initiatives such as our popular Hospital in the Home service are easing hospital demand by connecting families with the care they need, wherever they are.

Together, our staff are playing a vital role in preparing for and responding to winter demand – ensuring children, young people and families have timely access world-class care.





Multicultural project promotes sense of belonging

CAHS aspires to be a trusted health care provider, where everyone is treated with care, respect and a sense of belonging.

Guided by this goal, CAHS led the Strengthening Multicultural Services election commitment project to learn more about what matters for refugee families in WA and adapt our services to deliver the care that's truly needed.

The 4-year project explored a wide range of approaches to promote health equity, reduce barriers to care and improve our service for recent refugee arrivals who may have varied and complex health needs.

Grounded in community partnership and family-centred care, the project team worked alongside communities to enhance social inclusion, expand access to care and enable staff to better support the unique health needs of refugee families.

The project resulted in a more comprehensive model of care for refugee families, one that expands outreach to families in ways that are culturally responsive and flexible in meeting their needs.

The project is delivering positive results for newly resettled families, making it easier for migrants to navigate the health system and access the care they need.



Trusted information in your language

Almost one in 5 Western Australians speaks a language other than English at home, so we know how important it is to have ready access to trusted health information in your language.

To better connect with and support families, this year we launched a dedicated translated resources page on the PCH website, making it easier for children and families to find reliable and relevant health information that speaks to them.

The new go-to webpage brings together in one place more than 200 resources in more than 25 languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Dinka, Hindi, Somali and Ukrainian.

The resources cover a range of topics from childhood vaccination and plaster cast care to overseas visitor information and healthcare rights.

Making key health resources available in languages other than English reflects our commitment to community connection and care. The translated resources help to reduce barriers, boost consumer confidence and knowledge about their child's care, and promote positive health outcomes for everyone who engages with our service.

Scan the QR code to visit our [online translated resources](#)



Art celebrates culture and creativity

Fresh artwork adds colour, creativity and culture to CAHS' Child Development Service sites.

A vibrant series of Noongar animal-themed, decorative door stickers was installed across 9 sites. Featuring Australian animals, each beautifully illustrated by an Aboriginal artist, the colourful stickers include a QR code linking to a short video of a Noongar Elder saying the animal's name.

As well as serving as a practical wayfinding tool, the initiative offers a unique opportunity for families and staff to engage with Noongar language and culture, and helps to create a more engaging and inclusive environment for all.



Creating a welcoming workplace

This year we launched our Inclusion, Diversity and Equity framework designed to foster a safe, open and welcoming workplace, where everyone feels they belong.

Drawing on extensive consultation with staff and volunteers across all areas of CAHS, the framework affirms the culture of inclusion we are building at CAHS. It sets out the steps we will take to create the behaviours, work environments and team dynamics where we can deliver our best services.

It's not just about recruiting a diverse workforce. We're nurturing our workforce and evolving our approaches to create an environment where all team members can thrive personally and professionally and deliver the best care to the children of WA.

Complementing the framework, our newly established Inclusion Council aims to strengthen our inclusion efforts, helping create a workplace that celebrates our differences and values the contributions of all team members.

Importantly, this work helps us better serve the community and improve health outcomes. Fostering workplace inclusion strengthens the sense of belonging for all those who come to CAHS, ensuring all families, children and young people feel respected, valued and cared for.



Community Ambassadors: Building bridges, strengthening connection

We want all families to have access to the healthcare services and information they need in ways that work for them.

Since launching last year, the CAHS Community Ambassador Program has established itself as a deeply meaningful and much valued bridge between CAHS and the diverse communities we serve.

We have 8 Ambassadors representing cultural connections to various communities including Indian, Vietnamese, Somali, Hazara, Brazilian, Anywaa/Anuak and Chinese, as well as Youth Ambassadors.

By contributing their lived experience, insight and leadership, Ambassadors facilitate deeper conversations and learnings to help us better understand the strengths, needs and everyday realities of multicultural families. Their guidance has shaped research activities, staff training, immunisation initiatives, and the development of culturally informed resources that reflect real community priorities.

The program has strengthened CAHS' presence in the community. Supported by our Ambassadors, CAHS has attended multicultural festivals, shared information about child health services to diverse communities, and co-facilitated workshops for families on topics such as navigating the health system and accessing reliable health information.

These partnerships show that we are listening, learning and working alongside multicultural communities to ensure services are accessible, culturally responsive and grounded in lived experience.

Our Youth Ambassadors continued to share their lived experience to inform youth-friendly resources, mental health information, neuro-affirming care and staff education. Their partnership is strengthening our engagement opportunities and connection with young people, with CAHS planning an even greater focus on youth leadership in the coming year.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the [CAHS Community Ambassador Program](#)





EMPOWERING FAMILIES THROUGH ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION

This year marked a significant step forward in how we connect with and support families navigating child development concerns. With the launch of refreshed Child Development Service (CDS) webpages on the CAHS website, we have reimagined how information is delivered by placing clarity, accessibility and inclusion at the centre of every interaction.

At the heart of this transformation is a simple but powerful goal: making it easier for families and carers to find trusted, evidence-based guidance when they need it most. The new webpages bring together a carefully curated mix of written resources, videos and graphics, designed to meet people where they are – whether they prefer to read, watch, or explore visually.

Developed in close collaboration with clinicians and consumers, including Aboriginal families and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, the content reflects real experiences and diverse needs.

The resources include guidance on supporting children at home, working with schools, and information about other developmental concerns such as anxiety and sensory processing. These resources are freely available for all families in WA whether or not they are accessing CDS services.

A standout achievement is the introduction of a dedicated section addressing common concerns about attention, regulation and concentration, including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

For many families, understanding the challenges associated with ADHD can be overwhelming. By breaking down complex information into practical, easy-to-understand resources, this new section offers clarity, reassurance and actionable guidance.

Importantly, the ADHD-focused resources have been translated into 10 languages, removing barriers and opening doors for more families to access vital information. This multilingual approach ensures that more parents and carers can engage confidently with content that supports their child’s development, regardless of their background or preferred language.

Beyond the content itself, these updates represent a broader commitment to improving how we communicate and partner with families, and demonstrate our dedication to continuous improvement and responsive service design.

Scan the QR code to visit our new [CDS webpages](#)



Scan the QR code to visit our [ADHD translated resources](#)



Skilling up in mental health nursing care

CAHS continues our specialist graduate program designed to give registered nurses the skills, experience and confidence to serve in the paediatric mental health space.

The 12-month Transition to Practice Program mental health stream includes two 6-month placements in mental health settings, including acute care. Participants work towards completing a post-graduate certificate in mental health through Edith Cowan University.

By deepening understanding of adolescent mental health, the program demonstrates how CAHS is strengthening capacity to better serve young people experiencing mental health challenges and make a meaningful difference to WA families.



Shared insights strengthen CAHS culture

We want CAHS to be a workplace where people feel supported, respected and can grow to reach their full potential.

This year we engaged with hundreds of staff, volunteers and consumer representatives to strengthen CAHS’ organisational culture, grounded in the voices and experiences of our people.

Through a structured program of activities, participants explored what matters to them, the importance of shared purpose and collaboration, and how we can shape a positive workplace culture.

The consultation helped CAHS develop a clearer understanding of cultural strengths and has shaped meaningful improvements to the everyday experiences of staff and volunteers, enabling CAHS to foster the kind of workplace we aspire to be.

The work goes beyond our staff and volunteers. A strong organisational culture is essential to delivering safe, high-quality care for the children, young people and families we serve.

The insights gained through the consultation informed the development of 2 key culture-building tools at CAHS:

- Our Culture Framework highlights the connection to everyday experiences at work, including a sense of belonging, the value of contributions, a culture of working together and being supported at work.
- Our Culture Promise provides a shared vision for how we work together every day, built around being purposeful, people-centred and pursuing excellence.

Guided by the insight and experiences of our people, we’re taking these learnings to inform workforce planning, leadership practices and organisational strategy to build a workforce fit for the future.





Embedded workers help young people reach better place

Specialist workers are helping young people on their mental health care journey by working alongside children and families who come to CAMHS.

CAMHS has a robust carer peer worker and Aboriginal mental health worker workforce. This year additional members of this workforce joined CAMHS’ multidisciplinary Acute Care and Response Teams and phone-video support line, CAMHS Crisis Connect.

Working alongside clinicians, these embedded roles provide active support to the care and treatment of children, young people and their families. Carer peer workers offer the perspective of their lived experience by providing encouragement and a vision for recovery.

Aboriginal mental health workers provide a culturally safe point of contact to help young people and families navigate their mental health journey. These valued professionals also provide cultural liaison and community integration, a vital element of the service for Aboriginal families.

Grounded in real world perspective and guided by compassion and cultural insight, carer peer workers and Aboriginal mental health workers enhance support for young people facing mental health distress, helping them reach their recovery goals.



Building a strong Aboriginal workforce

The Aboriginal Workforce Action Plan 2026–2028 strengthens our commitment to culturally safe care by focusing on recruitment, retention and career development. It sets out clear, practical steps to build a strong, skilled and sustainable Aboriginal workforce across our services.

By increasing Aboriginal representation at all levels, including leadership roles, we are embedding cultural knowledge, lived experience and community connection into how care is designed and delivered. This helps create environments that are more respectful, responsive and free from bias and discrimination.

Aboriginal employment is 1.5 per cent of the total CAHS workforce. We continue to work towards the Public Sector Commission's Aboriginal employment target of 3.7 per cent.



A visible and supported Aboriginal workforce strengthens trust and engagement with families, helping them feel understood, respected and culturally secure when accessing care. Through this work, we are improving both the experience and outcomes of care, supporting equitable access to safe, high-quality services for Aboriginal children and young people across Western Australia.

Scan the QR code to read the [CAHS Aboriginal Workforce Action Plan 2026-2028](#)



Global study to shape rare disease family support

Families of children living with rare disease in WA are set to benefit from the world’s best practice family care and support, thanks to a CAHS clinician's global investigations.

Anna Thetford, clinical program lead of the CAHS Rare Care Centre, received a Churchill Fellowship to explore internationally leading family support programs.

Her study – which took her to Romania, Sweden, Norway, the UK and Ireland – explored how the most effective programs empower families, build resilience and improve quality of life for those navigating the challenges of rare and undiagnosed disease.

Anna’s findings highlighted the importance of placing families at the centre of program development, to ensure that services meet real family needs. Her work emphasised the need for sustainable, culturally responsive programs that are informed by lived experience, embedded with research and grounded in empathy.

Back in WA, the Rare Care Centre is applying these learnings to develop family-centred support programs that will improve long-term outcomes for children living with rare disease.

Opportunities like Anna’s show how global learnings can be adapted locally to strengthen understanding and improve care for WA families.



Major funding to transform rare disease care

A major funding donation is set to revolutionise care for children and families affected by rare and undiagnosed disease across WA.

The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation pledged an extraordinary \$221.1 million over 10 years to establish the Rare Care Comprehensive Centre. With additional support from the Perth Children’s Hospital Foundation (\$25 million) and the University of Western Australia (\$3 million), the centre will support earlier diagnosis, treatment access, and research and innovation.

By providing coordinated care, the centre will give fresh hope to the estimated 63,000 children and their families in WA affected by rare and undiagnosed disease.

The centre will translate research into tangible outcomes for families, and provide family support, education and advocacy, to bring about brighter futures for children living with rare disease.

Co-designed by families, clinicians, researchers and community partners to ensure lived experience is embedded in every aspect of its work, the centre’s collaborative model places child and family needs at the heart of service design and delivery.

The centre brings together a powerful alliance of partners including the PCH Foundation, University of Western Australia, Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, Perron Institute of Neurological and Translational Science, Curtin University, Murdoch University and The Kids Research Institute Australia.

The Rare Care Comprehensive Centre will set a new global benchmark in rare and undiagnosed disease care.





Purple Book collaboration creates opportunities and inclusion

This year CAHS celebrated our decade-plus partnership with disability employment provider Westcare, producer and distributor of the Purple Book, the trusted companion for parents of young children across WA.

Westcare provides meaningful employment opportunities for people with disability, ensuring that every book is not only a resource for families but also a symbol of dignity and purpose. This year CACH and Westcare achieved a publishing milestone when Westcare delivered copy number 350,000 of the Purple Book. That's 350,000 moments of reassurance, guidance and support – made possible by a partnership built on shared values.

From printing to packing and distribution statewide, it's a significant operation. But our collaboration with Westcare is more than logistics; it's about creating opportunities, fostering inclusion and celebrating the contributions of people with disability in our community.

The Purple Book is a valued resource and testament to what we can achieve when we work together. Our partnership with Westcare will remain important as we continue to explore other ways for families to access the essential information in our Purple Book online.

Scan the QR code to learn more about [CAHS' Community Child Health](#) and the Purple Book



Bringing world-class cancer care closer to home

For children and families facing a cancer diagnosis, accessing the best possible care close to home can make all the difference.

Launched this year, the WA Comprehensive Kids Cancer Centre brings together world-leading clinicians and researchers to deliver innovative treatments, clinical trials and personalised therapies for WA children and young people.

United by a shared passion to transform outcomes for childhood cancer, the centre is a collaboration between PCH, The Kids Research Institute Australia and the University of Western Australia, as well as funding partners, the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation.

By combining exceptional care with ground-breaking research, the centre is helping create a brighter future for families and improving outcomes for children with cancer across WA.



Revolutionising rehabilitation

This year PCH became the first public children's hospital in Australia to introduce the ZeroG 3D rehabilitation robot, a world-leading system that helps children safely practise walking, balance and everyday movements.

Supporting children with conditions including cerebral palsy, cancer, brain and spinal injuries, and stroke, the technology is building confidence, independence and mobility.

Since its introduction, more than 25 children have benefited from the innovative system, made possible by the generous funding from the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation and supported by specialist clinicians from Kids Rehab WA.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the [ZeroG 3D](#) robotic body weight support system



STRENGTHENING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships play a critical role in improving the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people across WA. By working alongside trusted organisations, CAMHS is expanding access to support, strengthening care pathways and creating more opportunities for young people to receive help in ways that work for them.

This year CAMHS partnered with leading youth mental health organisation Orygen to introduce MOST (Moderated Online Social Therapy), a free digital mental health platform for young people aged 12–25.

MOST combines evidence-based information and therapeutic activities with peer connection and professional support, providing a safe and accessible space where young people can build skills, access guidance and connect with others who understand their experiences.

Through this partnership, young people now have another flexible support option, helping them access the right care at the right time, wherever they are. Our collaborations are also delivering better health outcomes for one of our most vulnerable groups of young people – children in care.

Through our partnership with the Department of Communities, a dedicated child protection and family support worker is embedded within CAMHS hospital services. This innovative model strengthens support for children, families and carers, while helping staff navigate complex care needs through shared expertise, stronger communication and coordinated decision-making.

Built on a commitment to collaboration, knowledge-sharing and continuous improvement, the partnership is already enhancing the way services work together to support children and young people.

Looking ahead, there are plans to further expand this successful model by embedding specialist staff across CAMHS community services to provide more intensive services to our most vulnerable children.

By strengthening connections between agencies and broadening access to expertise, these partnerships are ensuring children, young people and families receive more connected, responsive and effective care.



SUSTAINABILITY

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

Sustainability is a guiding principle at CAHS. It informs our planning, decision-making and activities.

CAHS strives to reduce our environmental footprint, be resilient in the face of climate change and champion an environmentally sustainable health service that supports all children and young people and allows future generations to thrive.

We engage with staff and consumers to genuinely listen and partner on how we can improve sustainability across the organisation.

And the message is clear: our people support strong sustainability action. Sustainability is not an optional extra.

Buoyed by this feedback and motivated by our target of achieving net zero emissions by 2040, we are progressing a range of sustainability actions and initiatives across CAHS.

We have chosen to adopt the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare's Sustainability and Resilience Module, designed to put sustainability at the heart of service delivery.

Our Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2027 is helping us integrate sustainability thinking into all CAHS policies, planning and operations, and grow our sustainability culture at CAHS. It also details how we will meet requirements set out by the National Health and Climate Strategy, the Western Australian Climate Policy and the WA Emissions Reduction Framework.

Sustainability in action

Young people told us they want meaningful action on sustainability, and we listened.

This year we've advanced innovative thinking and evidence-backed approaches to support more sustainable behaviours, foster a climate-smart workforce, divert waste from landfill, enhance cross-agency collaboration and improve our overall sustainability performance.

By working together, truly listening and embracing sustainability values, CAHS is taking meaningful action towards a healthier, more sustainable tomorrow that will support the health and wellbeing of future generations.

Some of this year's highlights:

Growing a climate-informed workforce

- Collaborated with the Department of Health on system-wide learning to enhance staff understanding of climate change
- Supported scholarships for 4 staff to undertake carbon literacy training through Edith Cowan University
- Delivered tailored sustainability education to CAHS staff as part of leadership and medical training programs.

Charging ahead with electric cars

- Replaced petrol-powered fleet cars with electric vehicles, exceeding the WA Government target for low emission fleet vehicles
- Developed education materials to familiarise staff with electric vehicles.

Sharing sustainability knowledge

- Collaborated on climate risk assessments with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
- Joined a water symposium to share knowledge on water efficiency across WA Health.



Finding homes for unwanted items

- Introduced an online asset reuse portal for staff to enable greater reuse of equipment and assets. Dubbed a Buy Nothing group for the workplace, the initiative is an example of the circular economy in action, finding new homes for unwanted items
- Partnered with not-for-profit and educational groups to reuse expired stock as educational resources.

Driving down waste

- Rolled out recycling for syringe plastic components in operating theatres, keeping hundreds of kilograms of plastic out of landfill
- Continued to scale up our waste-reduction efforts to make recycling initiatives part of everyday CAHS-wide operations
- Led a system-wide workshop to identify and rethink the use of single use plastic items in the workplace
- Expanded our Pharmacycle recycling program to include inhalers, syringes, measuring cups, measuring spoons and other plastics
- Recycled more than 10,000 containers through the Containers for Change program and reinvested the funds to support staff sustainability initiatives.

PHARMACY RECYCLING STRENGTHENS SUSTAINABILITY CULTURE

A new inhaler recycling service at PCH is cutting waste, boosting recycling rates and growing the culture of sustainability at CAHS.

Before the recycling service was launched, all used and expired inhalers at PCH were incinerated. This meant hundreds of kilograms of waste every year. It also heightened the risk from the disposal of residual pharmaceuticals and made a weighty contribution to CAHS' carbon footprint.

PCH pharmacist Debbie Lalich knew it didn't have to be like this.

Inspired by her CAHS-backed carbon literacy training, Debbie spotted an opportunity for improvement and led the charge for a dedicated inhaler recycling service in the PCH Pharmacy Department.

Pharmacy team members worked with recycling company Pharmacycle to expand the collection service to include used and expired inhalers – the first service of its kind in a WA hospital.

The inhaler recycling service – which can be used by staff and members of the public – is part of a larger suite of waste-busting initiatives in the Pharmacy Department. The team was already set up for recycling syringes, measuring cups and spoons, blister packs and tablet bottles.

Staff awareness and education was a big part of the Pharmacy team's green push. The experience turned team members into active waste warriors who better understand recycling logistics, the importance of recycling correctly, and how it can help to address broader environmental goals.

The inhaler initiative even owes its genesis to the proceeds of recycling – the service was financed by funds raised by PCH's Containers for Change program.

Shaping a sustainability culture

Small, tangible projects like this are about more than simply reducing waste. They show how practical, staff-led innovations can make a positive difference to everyday behaviours, shift thinking towards the bigger issues, and help grow the culture of sustainability we're creating at CAHS.



OUR RESEARCH

At CAHS, we're committed to research excellence. We know it's vital to improving the health and wellbeing of the children and families who access our care.

Research helps us understand and respond to emerging health challenges, and find new and better ways of preventing, diagnosing and treating illness and injury. Our robust and dynamic research program involves researchers from across the health disciplines who are passionate about ensuring children across WA have access to the best possible health care.

While our focus is local, the impact of CAHS' research extends well beyond WA's borders.

From pioneering clinical trials to nurturing research careers and harnessing emerging technologies, we are proud of the positive difference our research and innovation makes to the lives of children here and around the world.

We are grateful for the ongoing partnership and support of The Kids Research Institute Australia, the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation, Channel 7 Telethon Trust, the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund and the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation.

Key achievements in 2025–26:

- Launched the Perth Children's Trials Centre, WA's flagship centre for paediatric clinical trials, giving local families access to new and novel treatments right here in WA
- Welcomed a 34 per cent rise in research grant funding generated by our investigators – a \$1.7 million increase on the previous year
- Identified strong support among CAHS staff for our research work – two-thirds of non-research staff expressed an interest in research participation. The inaugural CAHS Research Capacity and Culture Survey will help us refine our work to support investigators and strengthen our research capacity
- Celebrated 40 years of child health research investment in WA through the Telethon Trust Research Fellowships program. The program will expand to include fellowships for aspiring researchers in nursing and allied health, thanks to a major funding boost from Telethon Trust
- Investigated the effect of disordered eating on bone development and long-term health and wellbeing. The research – which found high levels of low bone density in young people admitted to the PCH-based Eating Disorders Service – is expected to increase the focus on bone health in this vulnerable patient cohort.



Diabetes research makes life better

Our research is making life easier for children and families managing type 1 diabetes with the development of an innovative app and access to ground-breaking preventative therapies.

The DiabHQ digital app was developed by CAHS researchers, in collaboration with investigators from The Kids Research Institute Australia.

The app gives families easy access to their child's medical information including clinical reports, pathology results and appointment details, helping families feel more informed, supported and confident in managing their child's care.

Our research is also giving families access to preventative therapies that have the potential to slow the progress of type 1 diabetes, helping ease the burden on children and families.

The recent discovery of blood markers that can identify type 1 diabetes before symptoms develop is enabling WA families to access novel preventative therapies such as Teplizumab and Baricitnib, which have shown promise in delaying diabetes progression.

With type 1 diabetes affecting around 1,200 children in WA, access to these therapies has the potential to be truly life changing for many families.



WA children benefit from home-grown trials centre

WA families now have greater access to novel – and potentially life-saving – treatments and therapies without having to travel interstate or overseas, following the launch of the Perth Children's Trials Centre (PCTC).

Building on WA's existing trials capability the PCH-based centre strengthens WA's competitiveness in the paediatric clinical trials space with added specialist expertise and new and improved clinical infrastructure.

By bringing cutting-edge treatments closer to home, the centre promotes greater access and equity, offering new hope and better health outcomes to WA children and families.

The PCTC will also boost WA's appeal to prospective research collaborators, attract more novel therapies to WA and support locally led clinical trials and investigations.





Forty years of Telethon Trust Research Fellowships

This year CAHS joined with Channel 7 Telethon Trust to celebrate 40 years of investment in WA child health through the Telethon Trust Research Fellowships program.

Since the first fellowship was awarded in 1986, the program has gone from strength to strength. It has nurtured around 100 clinician researchers in the early stages of their careers, including many of WA's leading child health investigators.

The program has been pivotal in fostering CAHS' culture of research excellence – through the advances and insights generated by research fellows' projects, and the legacy of their mentoring, skills sharing and passion for discovery.

In this milestone year, a major Telethon Trust funding boost has expanded the Research Fellowship program to include non-medical clinicians. The expansion creates 2 new fellowships – one each for aspiring researchers in nursing and allied health – providing a total of 5 annually awarded fellowships.



RSV research supports informed vaccine choices

CAHS research into vaccines is protecting newborn babies and empowering families to make informed choices that support the health of mothers, children and the community.

In a national study involving more than 3,700 babies, CAHS led investigations into Australia's hybrid respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation program, which uses both maternal and infant vaccines.

The research found the program was associated with a 44 per cent reduction in RSV-related hospitalisations for babies under 3 months of age – the group most at risk of severe RSV.

Babies whose mothers were vaccinated against RSV during pregnancy were around 82 per cent less likely to be admitted to hospital with RSV than unvaccinated babies.

Where expectant mothers were not vaccinated – but the babies received the nirsevimab vaccine – infants were around 90 per cent less likely to require hospital admission.

Evidence of strong RSV protection was also shown for babies who received nirsevimab later on as part of a vaccination catch-up program.

By providing real world insight into the RSV program, CAHS research is keeping babies out of hospital, reducing community risks and supporting families to protect child health.