

SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES





DEMAND FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

We want every child to have access to early intervention, assessment and care that supports their development and helps them reach their full potential.

CAHS continues to experience significant demand for child development services from families seeking support for a range of developmental delays and difficulties, including language delays; attention, regulation and concentration concerns; and autism.

To respond to this challenge, the CAHS Child Development Service (CDS) is making changes designed to strengthen our workforce, improve engagement with families and boost access to services, ensuring more kids get a healthy start in life.

Many of the initiatives were enabled by a previously announced \$30.4 million WA Government funding investment to boost staffing.

This year almost 100 additional allied health, nursing and paediatric professionals joined the CDS, which reduced wait times and helped more families access the care they need.

The staffing boost and other improvements have resulted in a significant 42 per cent increase in assessments and a 30 per cent increase in treatments per month. Wait times have dropped for most allied health services.

We continued to support choice and convenience with Saturday appointments at our Joondalup and Rockingham clinics, and expanded services at our new Kwinana clinic, bringing care closer to where families live. These options have assisted local communities, including Aboriginal families, who are benefiting from more accessible, culturally safe and community-based care.

To assist families referred to CDS, we've developed practical online resources to educate and empower families to support their child's development. Available on the CAHS website, these evidence-based resources include videos, graphics and translated resources to better support diverse communities.

CDS continues to progress system-wide reforms set out by the Select Committee into Child Development Services in Western Australia to deliver more integrated, locally driven and culturally responsive services, to ensure that more families can access the support they need to help their child flourish.

We will continue to focus on increasing access to care so children and families can receive the right support as early as possible, demonstrated by our ongoing partnership around broader national reforms including the Federal Government's Thriving Kids initiative.

DIGITAL HEALTH

Maximising opportunities to advance our digital services while modernising legacy systems and supporting growing clinical demand remains a significant challenge.

There is also a need to adapt to the emergence of new sophisticated technology such as artificial intelligence and to continue to position the organisation to address the challenges of cyber risk.

To address these challenges, CAHS is enhancing our digital capability so we can deliver safe, accessible and connected care for children and families across WA.

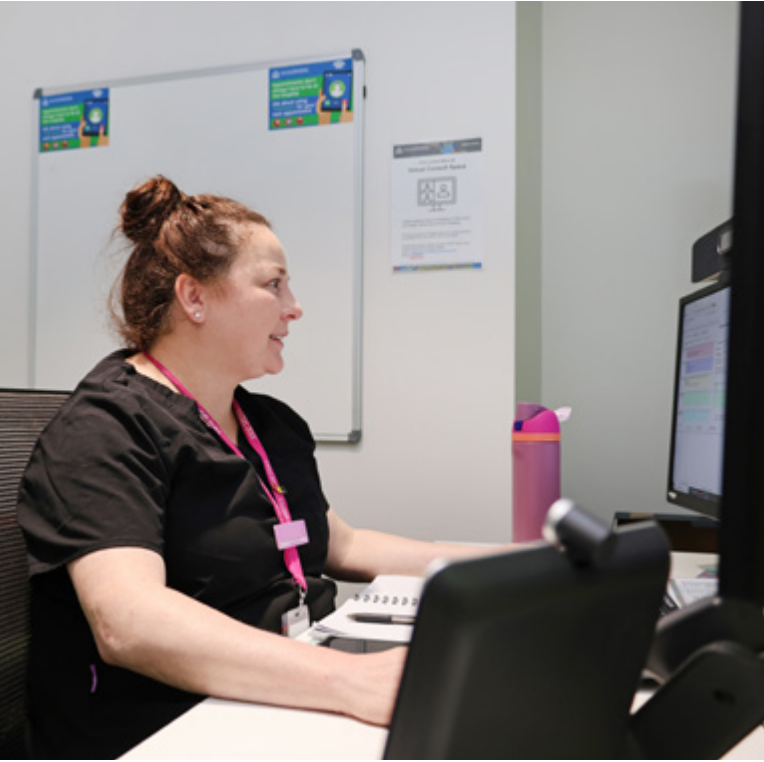
This year we delivered key clinical technology investments including the commissioning of the 3T magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) platform at PCH and the deployment of essential medical equipment.

We continue to mature our digital governance and planning with strengthened processes that improve investment prioritisation, lifecycle management, cybersecurity and risk oversight across digital assets. These initiatives support more sustainable and informed decision-making to ensure our technology investments deliver value to patients, families and clinicians.

Our progress towards statewide electronic medical record (EMR) readiness continues. Preparing for EMR implementation remains a complex undertaking, requiring significant clinical engagement, workflow redesign and system integration across care services.

This year CAHS led delivery of the intensive care unit EMR at PCH, strengthened clinical engagement, improved integration across care settings, and advanced our preparedness for broader digital transformation.

Virtual care is offering improved access to outpatient services, reducing travel and promoting timely follow-up, particularly for regional families.



Our Hospital in the Home remote monitoring service uses digital technology to safely monitor children at home and support timely clinical intervention in real time. This enables children to return home sooner, supported by hospital-level care in the comfort of their own home.

CAHS will continue to prioritise EMR implementation, expand virtual care models, strengthen digital foundations and invest in technology that supports safe, high-quality care. We will increase our focus on robust governance frameworks, data-driven decision-making, cybersecurity resilience and innovation to improve clinical outcomes for children and young people.



FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE



CAHS delivers trusted healthcare services to children, young people and families at more than 160 facilities across the Perth metropolitan area.

Increasing demand for services, greater clinical complexities, and a shift towards community-based models of care continue to place pressure on our diverse and expanding infrastructure portfolio. CAHS continues to respond to the ongoing challenge of providing fit-for-purpose infrastructure to meet growing service needs.

This year we've progressed work to strengthen our approach to infrastructure management and better align our community facilities with service needs.

CAHS will continue to mature our data driven asset management framework to strengthen the accuracy of forecasting, prioritisation and investment planning. We continue our work to identify and mitigate key risks related to asset condition, lifecycle, fire safety, workplace safety and accessibility across our facilities.

Addressing these risks across the wider metropolitan area and an ageing asset base requires a sustained and strategic approach to infrastructure investment and renewal to ensure CAHS is positioned to deliver care that meets the needs of WA families.

DEMAND FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

CAHS continues to experience growing demand for mental health services and is responding to this challenge to meet the needs of children, young people and their families.

Our new Community CAMHS area networks, based across the Perth metropolitan area, are supporting multidisciplinary teams to deliver more coordinated assessment, care and treatment for children and young people experiencing mental health challenges.

Our Acute Care and Response Teams continue to operate metro-wide, providing mobile, urgent and specialised mental health care, bringing crisis support closer to home.

We're also continuing to progress work in response to the recommendations of the Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents.

To strengthen equity and access to care, this year we have expanded the CAMHS Crisis Connect 24/7 telephone service to serve young people in regional WA. Previously a metropolitan-only service, CAMHS Crisis Connect is now available to young Western Australians wherever they are. The statewide service can also be used by those who care for young people, including family members, and medical and education professionals.

To further support the mental health of young people in the regions, we've expanded services to provide telehealth appointments to regional emergency departments, working closely with the WA Country Health Service, and plan to go statewide soon.

Recruitment of specialists is an ongoing challenge in a global professional job market. The introduction of dedicated mental health recruitment specialists at CAHS is helping attract and recruit mental health professionals from across Australia and around the world, ensuring young people in WA receive the best care possible.