

Summary of Leukaemia Foundation submission to the WA Cancer Plan 2026+ consultation

WA Health is developing the next WA Cancer Plan, which will set the direction for cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and palliative care across Western Australia over the next decade. As Australia's national organisation dedicated to people living with blood cancer and related blood disorders, the Leukaemia Foundation appreciated the opportunity to contribute to this consultation.

As more people live with and beyond cancer, the Plan presents an opportunity to strengthen a connected and equitable cancer system that provides timely treatment and support throughout and after cancer care. This is particularly important for people in regional, rural and remote areas, who can face long travel, time away from home and work, and high out-of-pocket costs. These barriers are often greater for people with blood cancer, whose treatment can be intensive, lengthy and specialised.

To help inform the next WA Cancer Plan, the Leukaemia Foundation's recommendations focus on:

- Establishing a funded statewide hub-and-spoke comprehensive cancer network that connects tertiary cancer services with regional clinical hubs, primary care, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and community-based cancer support services.
- Strengthening regional pathways to specialist cancer care, including haematology capability, with clear arrangements for referral, shared care and rapid escalation to tertiary services.
- Making cancer survivorship a dedicated priority, with coordinated pathways that provide practical, psychosocial, rehabilitation and wellbeing support from diagnosis through treatment and beyond.
- Developing a First Nations Cancer Equity Framework, co-designed and governed with Aboriginal people, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and Aboriginal health leaders, with measurable targets and public reporting on cancer access and outcomes.
- Acknowledging the need for ongoing reform of the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme as a clear commitment in the Plan, helping to advance regional health equity by reducing the financial burden on regional and remote patients and carers who need to travel for cancer care.
- Publishing a clear implementation and performance framework, with funded actions, timeframes, responsibilities, equity measures, public reporting and regular reviews over the life of the Plan.

The Leukaemia Foundation recognises that highly specialised cancer care will remain concentrated in Perth's tertiary hospitals. The Plan should, however, strengthen statewide capability and connected care so more people can access appropriate diagnosis, treatment, monitoring, follow-up and support closer to home.

The Foundation looks forward to working with WA Health, government, health services, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, community organisations and people with lived experience to help deliver a cancer system in which outcomes are not determined by postcode, and every Western Australian has the opportunity to live well with and beyond cancer.

For more information about the development of the WA Cancer Plan 2026+, visit the [WA Health website](#).