



Government of **Western Australia**
WA Country Health Service



Health in the Wheatbelt

Challenges and the path forward

May 2026



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Noongar Ballardong Boodjar we are meeting on today and their connection to land, country and waters of this area.

We acknowledge the wisdom of our Aboriginal Elders past and present and pay respect to our Aboriginal communities of today.



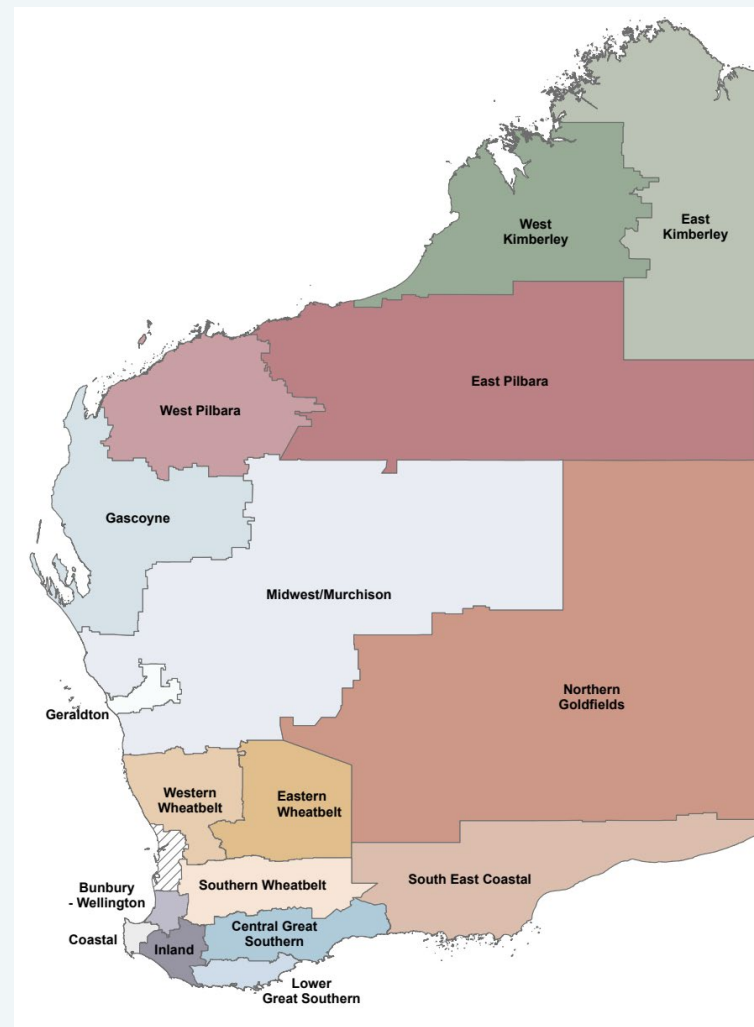
WA Country Health Service (WACHS) – Wheatbelt

Wheatbelt population - 79,553

- 25 hospitals (18 of these are Multi-Purpose Services - Residential and Community Aged Care Services)
- 14 health centres

Region wide services:

- Wheatbelt Aboriginal Health Service
- Wheatbelt Public Health Unit
- Health Promotion
- Four Primary Health Services (allied, community, child and adolescent)
- Regional palliative care, renal, and cancer services
- Wheatbelt Aged Care Unit
- Wheatbelt Community Mental Health Service



What we do



York Health Service/ Multi-Purpose Service

Hospital consists of:

- Two emergency department bays managed by virtual telehealth doctor
- Six inpatient beds and one palliative care room



And offers other services:

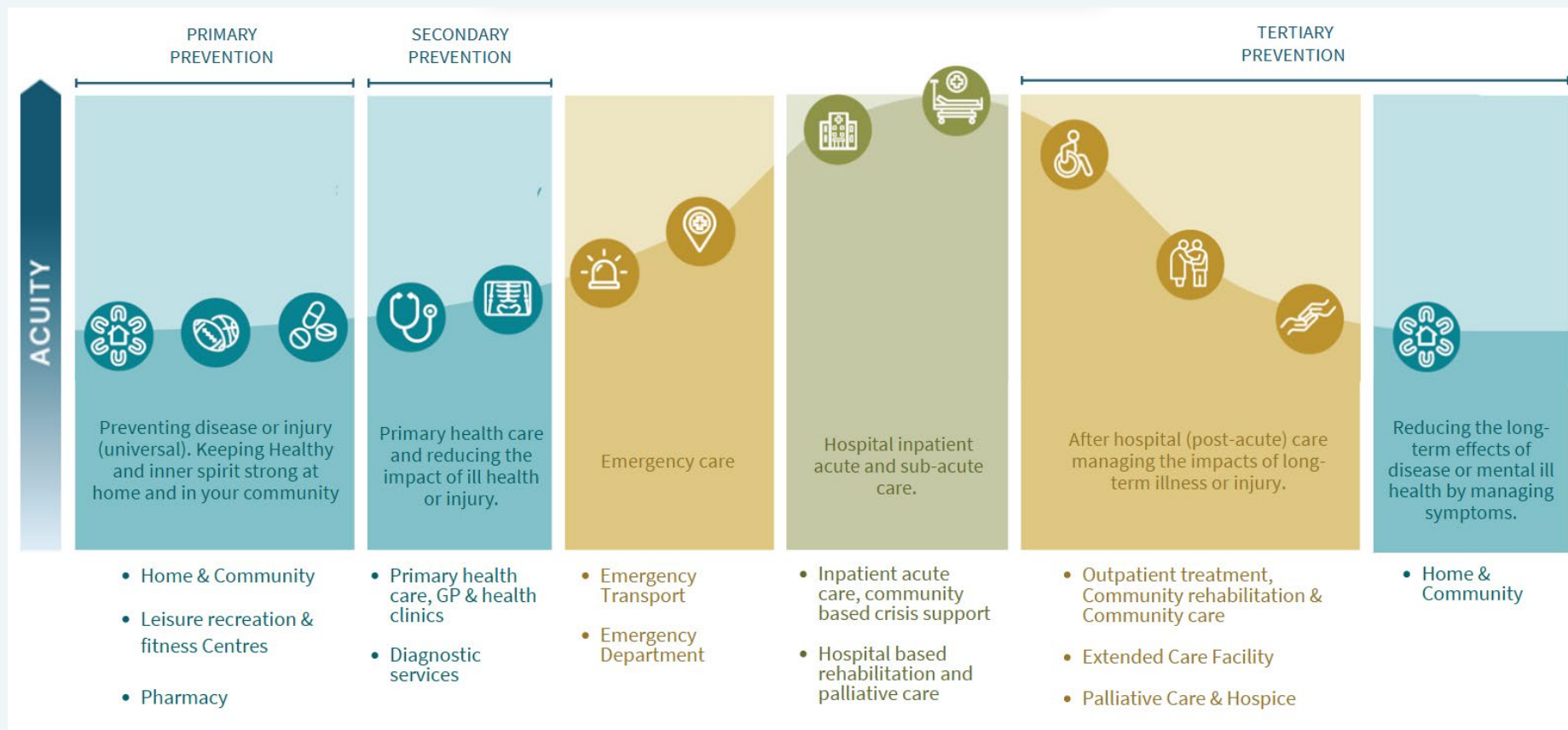
- Outpatients – nursing, allied health, mental health, Aboriginal health, medical, visiting and by telehealth
- Wound clinic
- Child health Nurse/immunisation clinic
- 21 residential aged care beds (including the lodge)
- Community aged care services (Commonwealth Home Support Program – CHSP)

Living well in thriving country communities



Diagram: Appendix 2, Living well in the Wheatbelt, towards 2035 and Beyond strategy focus areas.

Continuum of health and care services



Demand and acuity

- Demand is rising and acuity increasing
- Occupancy is high in key sites
- Length of stay is rising with older cohort of patients
- Persistent GP instability in some communities



Strengthening Local Health Services

- **Care closer to home**
 - Hospital in the Home
 - Virtual care
- **Workforce stability**
- **Integrated pathways**
- **Place-based decision making**
- **Partnership enabled reform**



What this means for partners

- **Local government:** enabling liveable, workforce-ready communities
- **Business:** strengthening regional attraction and retention
- **State government:** aligning reform, investment and policy levers
- **Health system:** redesigning care for access and sustainability
- **Communities:** co-designing solutions that work locally





Thank you

The artwork in this publication is the work of Leeann Kelly-Pedersen