

About Western Health

Employing approximately 7,400 staff and more than 600 volunteers, Western Health has a strong philosophy of working with its local community to deliver excellence in patient care. Western Health has long-standing relationships with health providers in the western region of Melbourne and strong affiliations with numerous Colleges and academic institutions.

Western Health manages three acute public hospitals: Western Hospital at Footscray; Sunshine Hospital at St Albans; and Williamstown Hospital. It also operates the Sunbury Day Hospital, and a Transition Care Program at Hazeldean in Williamstown. A wide range of community based services are also managed by Western Health, along with a large Drug and Alcohol Service.

Services are provided to a population of approx. 879,000 people across the western region of Melbourne.

Western Health provides a comprehensive, integrated range of services from its various sites; ranging from acute tertiary services in areas of emergency medicine, intensive care, medical and surgical services, through to subacute care and specialist ambulatory clinics. Western Health provides a combination of hospital and community-based services to aged, adult and paediatric patients and newborn babies.

Our Partners

We have long term partnerships with many providers across the region, including local government, primary and community care providers. This has culminated in the development and ongoing implementation of the Better Health Plan for the West. We are also partners in Strengthening Hospitals in Melbourne's West – a coalition with our neighbouring health services, Djerriwarrh Health and Mercy health, which aims to build a cohesive view of how health services in the region can best meet the needs of our community now and into the future.

Our Community

Characterised by its rapid growth and diversity, our community:

- Is growing at an unprecedented rate
- Is among the fastest growth corridors in Australia
- Covers a total catchment area of 1,569 square kilometres
- Has a population of approximately 879,000 people
- Is ageing, with frailty becoming an increasing challenge to independent healthy living
- Has high levels of cancer, heart disease, stroke and mental illness, with diabetes and depression also significant population health issues
- Has a diverse social and economic status
- Is one of the most culturally diverse communities in the State
- Speaks more than 110 different languages/dialects
- Provides a significant number of our staff
- Has a strong history of working collaboratively with Western Health to deliver excellence in patient care.

Western Health's catchment includes the following local government municipalities:

- Brimbank
- Hobson's Bay
- Hume



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- Maribyrnong
- Melton
- Moonee Valley
- Wyndham
- Moorabool

Our Vision

Together, caring for the West, our patients, staff, community and environment.

Our Purpose

Leading the delivery of a connected and consistent patient experience and providing the best care to save and improve the lives of those in our community most in need.

Our Values

Compassion – consistently acting with empathy and integrity

Accountability – taking responsibility for our decisions and actions

Respect – for the rights, beliefs and choice of every individual

Excellence – inspiring and motivating, innovation and achievement

Safety – prioritising safety as an essential part of everyday practice

Our Strategic Aims

Aim 1: Growing & improving the delivery of safe, high quality care

Aim 2: Connecting the care provided to our community

Aim 3: Communicating with our patients, our partners & each other with transparency & purpose

Aim 4: Being socially responsible & using resources sustainably

Aim 5: Valuing & empowering our people

Our Focus: Best Care

Western Health's vision of "Together, caring for the West" is the foundation for the health service's strategic focus. This is demonstrated through the application of our Values of Compassion, Accountability, Respect, Excellence and Safety (CARES) and strongly supported and enabled by five strategic aims:

- Growing and improving care
- Connecting care
- Communicating clearly
- Being socially responsible and sustainable
- Empowering our people

A core principle underpinning operational application of these strategic aims is "Best Care is our priority". Western Health's Best Care Framework translates the WH vision and strategic aims into day-to-day behaviours and priority actions to improve point of care clinical practices and systems supporting person-centred, co-ordinated, safe and right care for every patient, every time.



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A Positive Workplace

Together at Western Health, we have a shared responsibility for building and maintaining a positive and respectful environment that is free of negative workplace behaviours. All employees are expected to:

- Treat each other with dignity and respect as a minimum standard of behaviour
- Take responsibility for your own behaviour and how this impacts on those you work with and the patients in your care
- Address poor behaviour...don't 'walk past'

Closing the Gap

Western Health is committed to achieving equality in health status between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-indigenous Australians.

Western Health has reaffirmed its commitment to improving the health of Indigenous Australians residing in the Western suburbs after becoming an official signatory to the national Closing the Gap campaign.

Our Facilities

Footscray Hospital:

Footscray Hospital is an acute teaching hospital with approximately 290 beds. It provides the majority of acute elective and acute emergency services for Western Health. Patients are provided with a range of inpatient and outpatient services including acute general medical and surgical, intensive and coronary care, sub-specialty medicine, surgical services, and related clinical support. Research covering a range of medical, surgical and specialty areas is also conducted at the hospital.

Sunshine Hospital:

Sunshine Hospital is an acute and sub-acute teaching hospital with approximately 600 beds. Sunshine Hospital has a range of services including Joan Kirner Women's and Children's services, an intensive care unit, cardiac care services, surgical, medical, mental health, aged care and rehabilitation services. Sunshine Hospital's emergency department, including a paediatric service, is one of the busiest general emergency departments in Victoria. Maternity services at Sunshine Hospital has the third largest number of births of any hospital in the state. It continues to grow to meet the increasing demand within the community.

Sunshine Hospital Radiation Therapy Centre

The Sunshine Hospital Radiation Therapy Centre, a partnership between Western Health and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, provides a state-of-the-art radiation planning system and two linear accelerators to deliver treatment to patients with a range of cancers.

The Williamstown Hospital:

Williamstown Hospital is a 90 bed facility providing emergency services, surgical services, rehabilitation and geriatric evaluation and management services, renal dialysis services and community rehabilitation and transition care services.

The Sunbury Day Hospital:


The Sunbury Day Hospital provides day medical, day surgical, day chemotherapy and haemodialysis treatment and a number of specialist clinics.

Drug Health and Addiction Medicine Services:

Drug Health Services provide a diverse range of services for individuals and their families affected by drug and alcohol related problems. Drug Health Services is a community based program of Western Health and



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offers innovative client centered recovery programs that include specialist programs for Adults, Women and their Children, Adolescents and their Families. They also provide Residential Withdrawal Services for both adults and adolescents. Services are both office based and outreach. Office based services are provided from the Footscray and Sunbury Campuses. Access to Addiction Medicine Consultants and Nurse Practitioners is available to support seamless service delivery. Drug Health Services liaises with Addiction Medicine Services within Western Health.

The Western Centre for Health Research and Education (WCHRE):

Located at Sunshine Hospital, the Western Centre for Health Research and Education provides a range of purpose built, state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities. The Centre is the result of the partnerships with the University of Melbourne and Victoria University and plays a pivotal role in staff and student education and research activities. Available within the Centre is a 200 seat auditorium, a 100 seat lecture theatre, library facilities, simulation centres and a number of seminar and tutorial rooms. The Centre is home to the Western Clinical School for Medicine and Allied Health in partnership with the University of Melbourne and also houses researchers, academics and educators from Western Health, Victoria University and the University of Melbourne. The Centre has enabled a number of collaborative projects and opportunities researching diseases that affect our local communities and has placed Western Health as a centre of excellence in academic and research fields. Western Health maintains strong partnerships with a number of lead universities including the University of Melbourne, La Trobe, Monash, RMIT and Victoria Universities for medical, nursing and midwifery and allied health training.

Hazeldean Transition Care:

Hazeldean Transition Care is located close to the Williamstown Hospital and provides Transition Care Program services to the people of the West. The Transition Care Program provides goal oriented, time limited and therapy focused care to help older people at the conclusion of their hospital stay.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Western Health respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which its sites stand as the Boon Wurrung and the Wurundjeri people of the greater Kulin Nation.

Western Health encourages applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.



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