

Paediatric Palliative Care and Hospice Service

Supporting Children and Families to Live Well

What is Paediatric Palliative Care?

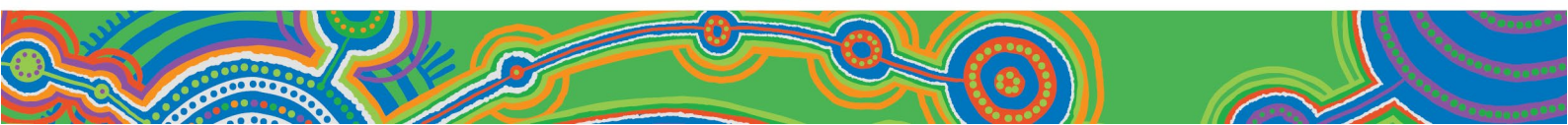
Paediatric Palliative Care supports infants, children and young people living with complex and life-limiting conditions to live as well as possible. Care focuses on quality of life, comfort, wellbeing and helping children participate in the activities and experiences that are meaningful to them and their families.

Support can begin at any stage, including from the time of diagnosis, and can be provided alongside treatments aimed at managing, improving or curing a condition. Families can choose where care is provided, including at home, in hospital or at Sandcastles (Boodja Mia) Hospice.

The Paediatric Palliative Care and Hospice Service (PPCHS)

We walk alongside children and families, helping them live well, stay connected and access the support they need throughout their journey.

- PPCHS is a specialist statewide service supporting infants, children and young people with life-limiting conditions, and their families, throughout Western Australia (WA).
- We provide care and support to families from all cultural and social backgrounds, including those in rural and remote areas.
- We work alongside the many healthcare professionals involved in your child's care to provide coordinated, child and family-centred support.
- Across the PPCHS our multidisciplinary team includes medical, nursing, physio, occupational therapy, social work, family support and administrative staff.
- Care is provided through three interconnected streams the Specialist Paediatric Palliative care team based at PCH, Sandcastles (Boodja Mia) Children's Hospice and the Family Support and Outreach team.
- Our specialist team works through inpatient support of children working alongside the treating team, outpatient palliative care clinic and collaboratively with local hospitals, community health services, GPs and palliative care providers across metropolitan, regional and remote WA.
- Sandcastles (Boodja Mia), located in Swanbourne, provides specialist clinical care in a warm, home-like environment.
- Children can access Sandcastles for respite care, symptom management, family stays and end-of-life care.
- Each family will be allocated a family support and outreach worker to provide practical help, emotional support, guidance, advocacy and coordination, helping your family navigate challenges, connect with services and focus on what matters most.



Our Aim

Our aim is to help children, young people and their families live as well as possible by promoting comfort, wellbeing, participation, connection and quality of life.

We do this by:

- Enhancing quality of life and supporting children and young people to live well.
- Providing holistic care that responds to the physical, emotional, social and practical needs of each family.
- Ensuring equitable access to specialist services across Western Australia.
- Building partnerships with families and healthcare providers to deliver coordinated, family-centred care.
- Adapting care and support as needs change over time.

How can we support your child and family?

- Expert care to promote comfort, wellbeing and quality of life, including support with symptoms such as pain, seizures, irritability and breathing changes.
- Information and guidance about medications, equipment and care options to help families make informed choices.
- A dedicated Family Support Team offering emotional, social and practical support for children, parents, siblings and extended family members.
- Connections to services, financial assistance, respite opportunities, the NDIS and community resources.
- Conversations about family goals, future planning and healthcare choices that reflect what matters most to your child and family.
- Flexible access to specialist advice and consultation across metropolitan, regional and remote Western Australia, including home visits, clinic appointments, telephone and videoconference consultations.
- Coordinated care in partnership with hospitals, community providers, schools and local healthcare teams.
- Access to Sandcastles (Boodja Mia), a home like environment offering respite, therapy, clinical support, family accommodation, a hydrotherapy pool and sensory spaces.
- Compassionate care for children and families as care needs change over time, including end-of-life.
- Bereavement support for parents, siblings, grandparents and extended family members.



Referral

A referral to PPCHS can be made at any stage of a child's illness. Many families find it helpful to connect with our service early, even while their child is receiving treatments and therapies. Early involvement can provide access to information, symptom management, care coordination and practical support, helping children and families get the most from everyday life.

How do I organise a referral?

Discuss with your child's primary health care team or contact the PPCHS.

For more information:

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Produced by: General Paediatrics Department
Ref: 1125 © CAHS 2019, Rev Oct 2026

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