



WA Paediatric Palliative Care Service

Fact Sheet for Families

What is Paediatric Palliative Care?

Palliative Care for infants, children and young people with life-limiting conditions is an active approach to care. It can start from the point of diagnosis or recognition that a condition is life limiting. It focuses on enhancement of quality of life for the child and support for the family. Palliative Care can be provided alongside active treatments (surgery, chemotherapy, etc.). Families can choose where they would like care to be delivered for example, home or hospital, including those in rural and remote areas.

The WA Paediatric Palliative Care Service (WAPPCS)

- WAPPCS is a specialist service providing support to families caring for a child with a life-limiting condition from any culture or background who lives in WA.
- We are based at Perth Children's Hospital but support families throughout the state.
- We work alongside other teams who care for children to help provide the best possible care.
- We work in a child and family centred way.
- We are a specialist team with medical, nursing and social work staff along with clerical and pastoral care support.

Our Aim

- To focus on the quality of the child's life.
- To minimise distress and promote communication and connection, comfort and caring experiences.
- Our service focuses on helping children and their families to live well.

What do we provide?

- Assessment and management of symptoms (pain, seizures, secretions, irritability etc.).
- Education and information about medications and equipment.
- Psychosocial support for the child, siblings and family members.
- Social support including information about finances, respite care options, NDIS.
- Support with advanced care planning and goals of care.
- Services can be inpatient and outpatient setting.
- Contact with us can be in person, by phone or video conference.
- Care and support during the end stages of life.
- Bereavement care for parents, siblings and extended family.



Referral

A referral to WAPPCS can be made at any stage during the child's illness. It is often difficult to predict the progression of many childhood conditions. It is a good idea to think about a palliative care referral early, even at the time of diagnosis when medical treatment is given to treat or cure an illness.

How do I organise a referral?

Discuss with your child's health care team members, or contact the WAPPCS.

For more information:

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Child and Adolescent Health Service

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with

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