



**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MENTAL HEALTH, ALCOHOL
AND OTHER DRUG SERVICES PLAN 2015-2025:
BETTER CHOICES. BETTER LIVES.**

MIDWEST

OVERVIEW

The Midwest region of Western Australia covers 470,000 square kilometres, nearly one fifth of the State. The population is concentrated along the coast with more than 70% living around Geraldton-Greenough. Whilst the population is growing along the coast, the inland population has declined slightly in recent years.

The Midwest region had a population of 69,600 in 2014 (representing 2.7% of the State's population). By 2025, the population is expected to reach almost 80,000 persons. However, although the population will increase, the percentage of the State's population residing in the Midwest will decrease to 2.5%.

ABORIGINAL POPULATION

The Aboriginal population in the Midwest totalled almost 7,600 persons in 2011, which represented 10.0% of the total Aboriginal population of Western Australia. This is expected to grow to almost 12,000 persons by 2025, with the percentage remaining constant at 10.0%.

CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

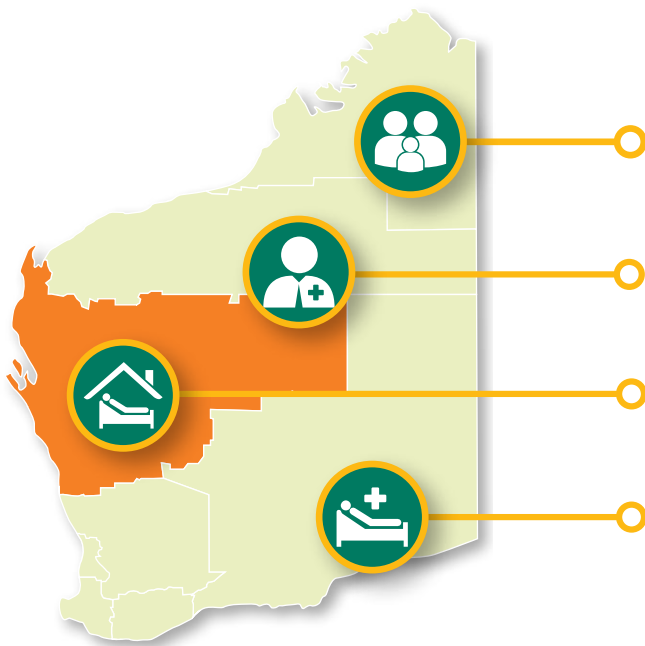
During the consultation process for the Plan, people in regional areas raised a range of issues and priorities, including:

- a need for a greater level of detail about services for their region
- culturally secure services and programs for Aboriginal people
- the high proportion of children and young people in some areas and the need for early intervention
- challenges regarding transport and geographical distance.

The Midwest provided feedback outlining that the establishment of a 24-hour crisis response line, which would improve access to regional Western Australia was vital.

The Plan outlines a strategy and action in the Community Treatment Services section: *establish an effective 'one stop shop' service that provides 24-hour mental health crisis and emergency services, system navigation assistance and frontline staff training* (see page 53 of the Plan), by the end of 2017. It is envisaged that this service will also play a role in system navigation.





NORTHERN AND REMOTE – MIDWEST

SERVICE TYPE	2025
Community Support Services	
Hours ('000)	191
AOD only beds	28
Community Treatment Services	
Hours ('000)	199
Community Bed-Based Services	
Beds	59
Hospital-Based Services	
Beds	39

NOTES

MH = Mental health

AOD = Alcohol and other drugs

Note: All services are MH and AOD combined unless otherwise specified.

Define: Hours of Support (community support only): includes face-to-face time only. For example, hours a person spends in respite care, hours spent undertaking an activity, hours of face-to-face support with peer workers, or health, social and welfare support workers etc.

Define: Hours of Service (prevention, community treatment, specialised statewide services, forensics): includes face-to-face time between consumers/carers and staff, travel time, and time for other duties such as administrative requirements, training and research.

Note: the Plan articulates the overall intentions regarding service development and transformation of mental health, alcohol and other drug services over the next ten years. Exact locations and distributions of services as shown are subject to the Government's fiscal capacity and approval through normal budgetary processes, and will be determined by a combination of consultation process and the assessment of relative feasibility to deliver the service.

SERVICES



Community Support Services: give people with mental health, alcohol and other drug problems the help and support they need to participate in their community. Support services can include programs that help people identify and achieve their goals and that assist them to access and maintain employment, education, housing and social interaction.



Community Treatment Services: provide clinical care in the community. These services generally operate with multidisciplinary teams who provide outreach, transition support, relapse prevention planning, physical health assessment and support for good general health and wellbeing. Alcohol and other drug community treatment services also include pharmacotherapy, screening and counselling.



Community Bed-Based Services: provide 24-hour, seven days per week recovery-oriented care in a home-style setting, low medical withdrawal services and structured, intensive residential rehabilitation for people with alcohol and other drug problems, following withdrawal. These services support people to improve their capacity to function independently following a stay at an inpatient unit or to avoid hospital admission where appropriate.



Hospital-Based Services: include acute, subacute and non-acute inpatient units, emergency departments, consultation and liaison services, hospital in the home, mental health observation areas, and alcohol and other drug detoxification services.



SERVICES FOR THE MIDWEST BY THE END OF 2025

The Plan models the level and mix of services required across Western Australia by the end of 2025. The need for services in the Midwest by the end of 2025 includes:

- Significant increases in community-based mental health (to 184,000 hours per year) and drug and alcohol support services (to 7,000 hours per year). These include peer support, employment, education and training programs, housing, social opportunities and help with daily living tasks.
- Increase community-based clinical treatment services for mental health (to 131,000 hours per year) and alcohol and other drug problems (to 68,000 hours per year) including the expansion of drug and alcohol service hubs and increased outreach services.
- For the Northern and Remote Region (includes Goldfields, Kimberley, Pilbara and Midwest) the increase in community based clinical treatment services for mental health represents a 151% increase on current levels, and for alcohol and other drugs, a 168% increase.
- Increase community-based mental health beds (from 14 to 33), double (to 24) drug and alcohol residential rehabilitation beds and provide two community-based beds for low medical withdrawal.
- Provide 35 mental health hospital and hospital-in-the-home (HITH) beds which will enable approximately 980 additional mental health admissions per year.
- Four hospital beds for medically supervised complex alcohol and other drug withdrawal will enable approximately 140 additional admissions per year.



MODELLING

The modelling which underpins the Plan has been undertaken according to the population in given geographical regions, including:

- North Metropolitan
- South Metropolitan
- Northern and Remote comprising of:
 - Goldfields
 - Kimberley
 - Pilbara
 - **Midwest**
- Southern Country comprising of:
 - Great Southern
 - South West
 - Wheatbelt

Exact locations and distributions of services will be determined by a combination of consultation processes and the assessment of relative feasibility to deliver the service. For example, if the modelling identifies one bed in a region, consideration will be given as to how that can be adapted or combined with other service types for the practicalities of service delivery in order to successfully and efficiently commission the services required for the region.

The modelling tools' output is provided in hours of service, hours of support or bed numbers; however, these are considered a proxy for the levels of service that will be provided in any given location. The modelled output does not specify the model of service or the service provider.

In consultation with key stakeholders (including consumers, carers, families, and clinicians), models of service will be developed to achieve a degree of standardisation throughout the State. This will enable a consistent standard of service provision, however, this must be balanced with the key aim of personalisation to meet individual needs and adaptability to meet local area characteristics (including service availability, population profile, diversity and cultural factors).

