



THE GREG BLEWETT OUTREACH PROGRAM
SPORTING CHANCE CANCER FOUNDATION
WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH NETWORK
2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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CONTENTS

Executive Summary	Page 3
Greg Blewett Outreach Program Snapshot	Page 4
Geographic Distribution - Map	Page 5
Greg Blewett Outreach Program Achievements 2010/2021	Page 6
Presentations	Page 6
Outreach Travel	Page 7
Greg Blewett Outreach Program 2022/2023	Page 7

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Greg Blewett Outreach Program supports children with cancer and their families from regional and remote areas, who are receiving treatment at the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH), Adelaide. This is achieved through education, liaison and coordination between services. The program supports children and their families as well as health care practitioners across the multi-disciplinary team. Support is provided to other tertiary centres, regional hospitals, primary and community health care agencies, general practitioners and remote health care centres. Funding is provided from the Sporting Chance Foundation to employ a Nurse Consultant at the Michael Rice Centre for Haematology/Oncology (MRCHO) at 0.8FTE, including backfill for periods of leave which enables seamless care delivery.

Consumer Feedback

The Greg Blewett Outreach Program is valued by regional and remote families. Recently, feedback was sent through by a family whose child has been supported by the program over the last 3 years.

Having your baby diagnosed with cancer is terrifying.

Along the way we learned you have to trust your instincts.. the health care system has many cracks and you do fall down them. It took time to get our heads around this.

We could not have navigated everything without Shandelle. She listened to concerns, helped behind the scenes more than we fully understood to help iron out the many creases. Chased up results, registrars, doctors across multiple platforms. Throw in COVID and living across the border Shandelle made what seemed impossible actually happen.

To us and our overall health as a family Shandelle has been as important to us as his treating Oncologist. She is at the forefront of Georges treating team.

Not only is this role a crucial one, you have the right person in it.

Kathryn & Adrian Isbill

Telephone Triage and Virtual Care

Providing telephone support to families is considered a minimum standard of care to manage the significant toxicities which can be associated with cancer therapy. Telephone triage is a service provided to all families with a child diagnosed with cancer through the Michael Rice Centre for Haematology/Oncology (MRCHO). This is a 24/7 service supported by the Outreach Oncology Nurse Consultant, as well as experienced oncology nurses within MRCHO. Assessment and intervention are determined using a standardised assessment tool. If intervention is required, the child is referred to their GP or local emergency department.

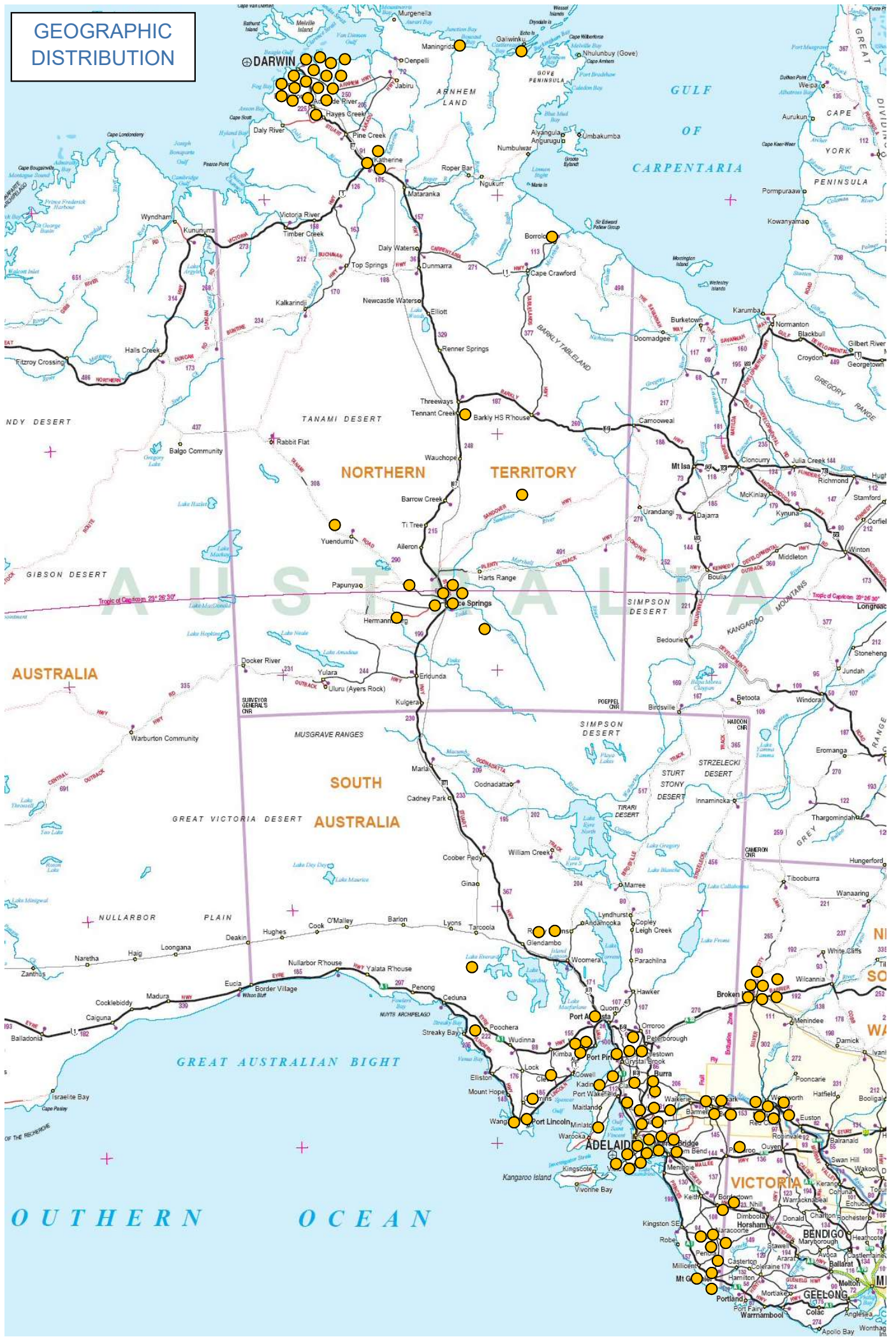
In 2021, a virtual emergency service was developed at WCH, known as the Child and Adolescent Virtual Urgent Care Service (CAVUCS). This service has been available to children aged between 6 months and 17 years, within metropolitan and regional South Australia. Previously, this service was not available to paediatric oncology patients due to the high-risk nature of their care.

Key stakeholders from MRCHO and CAVUCS have been involved in the development of a trial, including referral guidelines and exclusion criteria. The 3-month trial is planned to commence in August, extending the current MRCHO telephone triage service to include referral to CAVUCS. Children with low risk complaints who require additional medical assessment will be referred to the virtual service, potentially avoiding an unnecessary presentation to their local emergency service. A communication plan has been developed for patients and families, with consumer input during, and at the conclusion of the trial. A communication and education plan have also been developed for the MRCHO and CAVUCS teams. CAVUCS are supporting regional sites, further complementing the existing relationships developed for children undergoing cancer therapy from regional and remote locations.

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

- 99 patients under care of outreach service (distribution map page 6)
 - 64 on active treatment
 - 35 required coordination of travel and appointment scheduling, including telehealth consults
 - 22 patients of ATSI origin
- 56 patients received shared care and/or follow up within their local health care service
- 25 families were able to reside at home during treatment with support of Greg Blewett Outreach Program
- 21 families supported to return home during and post treatment
- 31 health care services supported to care for paediatric patients with cancer
- 92 episodes of telehealth
 - 71 consults
 - 8 family meetings
 - 4 multi-disciplinary complex transfer planning
 - 9 pre-chemotherapy patient assessments
- 1 episode of outreach travel
- 2 patients received intravenous/subcutaneous chemotherapy at their local health care service
- 5 rural/regional school visit/calls undertaken as part of Greg Blewett Outreach Program
- 3 transitioned to adult services

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



GREG BLEWETT OUTREACH PROGRAM 2021/2022 ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievements over the last 12 months include:

- Develop trial to integrate MRCHO telephone triage service with WCHN Child and Adolescent Virtual Urgent Care Service (CAVUCS).
- Update service agreement between WCH & RDH for paediatric oncology shared care.
- Project lead "Improving Outcomes for Aboriginal Children Diagnosed with Cancer" supported through the WCH Foundation.
- Aboriginal Cancer Control Plan Update – leadership group.
- State-wide Cancer Care Coordination – paediatric representative for service review group.
- Working in partnership with the WCH COVID exemptions team to facilitate treatment for children living outside of South Australia.
- Submit abstract to Australia New Zealand Haematology/Oncology Group (ANZCHOG) Annual Scientific Meeting.
- Representative for new Women's and Children's Hospital build planning.
- Representative for implementation planning for Electronic Medical Records (EMR).
- Undertake Advanced Bone Marrow Transplant Study Day.
- Undertake update for Paediatric Antineoplastic Drug Administration Course (PADAC) facilitator training.
- Participate in Youth Cancer Service meetings for young people from regional and remote locations.
- Provide clinical support to MRCHO.

PRESENTATIONS

- Friday 8th October
 - Present Greg Blewett Outreach Program Annual Report to WCH Division of Paediatric Medicine safety and quality group meeting
- Friday 15th October
 - Presentation to WCH Oncology Study Day



OUTREACH TRAVEL

COVID surges have continued to limit opportunities for travel throughout 2021/2022. Planned travel to ANZCHOG 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting cancelled due to COVID surge in South Australia.

DARWIN - 31 May – 3rd June

Travel to Darwin was for the purpose of interviews for the Aboriginal Outcomes Project. Several interviews were performed with families from Darwin and surrounds, including telehealth links for extended family in remote locations. Interviews with local clinicians were also undertaken. It was also an opportunity to reconnect and provide education with teams in person, as well as new team members from the paediatric and adult oncology services.



Smoking Ceremony at RDH



Patient transport assistance support



On-site accommodation support at Royal Darwin Hospital

GREG BLEWETT OUTREACH PROGRAM: looking forward 2022/2023

- Finalise review of research project; "Improving Outcomes of Aboriginal Children Diagnosed with Cancer" with recommendations made to key stakeholders.
- Submit abstract to ANZCHOG
- Develop and implement education plan, focusing on areas with increased levels of activity.
- Focus on consumer engagement. Work in partnership with WCH Consumer and Community Engagement to formally review to Greg Blewett Outreach Program.