

ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICES — TRANSITION CARE PROGRAM

Statement by Minister for Health

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health) [12.24 pm]: The McGowan government, in a national first, has partnered with Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations to pilot culturally appropriate community-based care to support older Aboriginal Western Australians leaving hospital. The transition care program, jointly funded by the federal and state governments, is a longstanding program providing goal-oriented care to older people for up to 12 weeks after their hospital discharge, including social work, nursing support, personal care and allied health care. The pilot ACCHOs each have an initial state investment of approximately \$1.8 million, of which up to \$1.26 million could be subsidised by the commonwealth government. The commonwealth has also contributed a further \$1 million towards an evaluation and small capacity building grants.

I had the privilege of announcing the inaugural pilot in February 2022, through which the South West Aboriginal Medical Service delivers culturally appropriate care services in Bunbury and surrounds. The WA government subsequently supported services through the Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service, or BRAMS, and the Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service—GRAMS. BRAMS has led the way in the Kimberley as the first and only service provider of transition care in the region. In April 2022, it was the only active discharge pathway for older people from Broome Health Campus, with other Broome-based residential and community aged-care services closed to new admissions.

The pilot is an outstanding example of the WA government's commitment to delivering equitable care for all Western Australians, strategically aligning with the recommendations of the sustainable health review, priority reform areas of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the *WA Aboriginal health and wellbeing framework 2015–2030*, and supporting Aboriginal-led place-based decision-making and service delivery to support better health outcomes for Aboriginal peoples. The pilot also supports a reduction in inappropriate extended hospital stays and readmissions, leading to better outcomes for patients while ensuring that hospital beds are available for people who need hospital care. This work contributes to a national evidence base on improving the accessibility of transition care and is building a foundation for ACCHOs to develop other culturally appropriate aged-care services. The Western Australian government continues to pursue opportunities for ACCHOs to deliver culturally appropriate care, and I look forward to updating the Parliament again soon on the expansion of this successful work.