



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

Trial Centre Annual Report



2025



Acknowledgements

WA Country Health Service acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia (WA) and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures, and to Elders both past and present.

Within WA, the term Aboriginal is used in preference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, in recognition that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of WA. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander may be referred to in the national context and Indigenous may be referred to in the international context. No disrespect is intended to our Torres Strait Islander colleagues and community.

Aboriginal people should be aware that this publication may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or printed material.

Artwork: Ugarla nganhu buujunga nyinamarda
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Executive Director's message



The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Trial Centre plays a critical statewide enabling role for clinical trial delivery beyond metropolitan Perth. The Trial Centre attracts national and international clinical trial sponsors and investigators to country WA through excellence in clinical trial service delivery underpinned by statewide collaboration, fit-for-purpose infrastructure and a skilled regional workforce.

The service delivers local access to clinical trial treatment directly addressing geographical inequity to emerging therapies. With over 300 patients enrolled to date, including over 200 Aboriginal patients, the WACHS Trial Centre is delivering on its mission.

The Trial Centre is now fully operational and consistently demonstrates that high-quality, well-governed clinical trials can be delivered safely across diverse geographic and service contexts. Excitingly, the Centre's regional clinical trial service delivery is consistently remarked as nation leading with external validation received from:

- The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC), who invited WACHS to demonstrate their excellence to the Australian Association of Regulatory and Clinical Scientists
- Eli Lilly, who have selected WACHS to participate in a global phase two medical oncology study; our first commercial clinical trial
- Short Notice Assessment Program (SNAP) Remote Site Assessors, who praised the service design as 'nation leading'
- WA Health Excellence Award nomination for the award for Excellence in Rural and Remote Health Care.

Throughout the year, the Trial Centre strengthened partnerships across medical, nursing, and allied health disciplines. We worked alongside rural and remote clinicians to deliver clinical trial care, and deepened collaboration with tertiary hospital services and Aboriginal Medical Services. Significant effort was invested in building relationships with external sponsors, positioning WACHS as a preferred regional partner for the delivery of high-quality clinical trials.

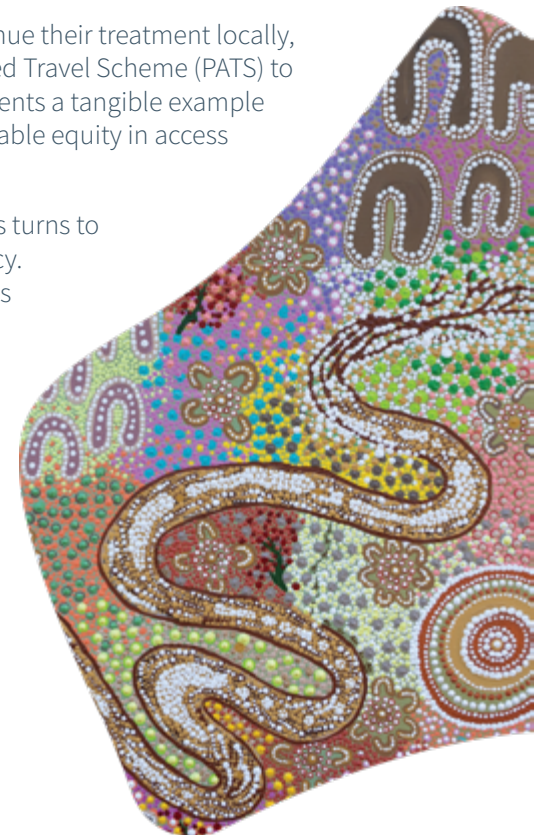
These partnerships have been fundamental to ensuring that clinical trials are an integrated component of high-quality, patient-centred health services.

Multiple trials were successfully commenced between tertiary service and WACHS sites, as well as between regional sites. This shared care approach has been successful across multiple clinical settings, including geriatrics, endocrinology, and medical oncology and has saved country participants over 99,630 kilometres of travel that would have otherwise been required for trial participation in metropolitan centres.

Where patients are unable to continue their treatment locally, the expansion of the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) to include clinical trial patients represents a tangible example of how system-level change can enable equity in access for our remote patients.

As we look ahead to 2026, our focus turns to sustainability, scale, and consistency. We look forward to working towards securing ongoing funding to continue WACHS' nation leading service. This will ensure that participation in clinical trials remains a routine and accessible component of best-practice healthcare delivery for our country patients.

Through 2026 we aim to build on the WA Teletrial Program to leverage sustainable investment to prioritise access to clinical trials across rural and remote WA.



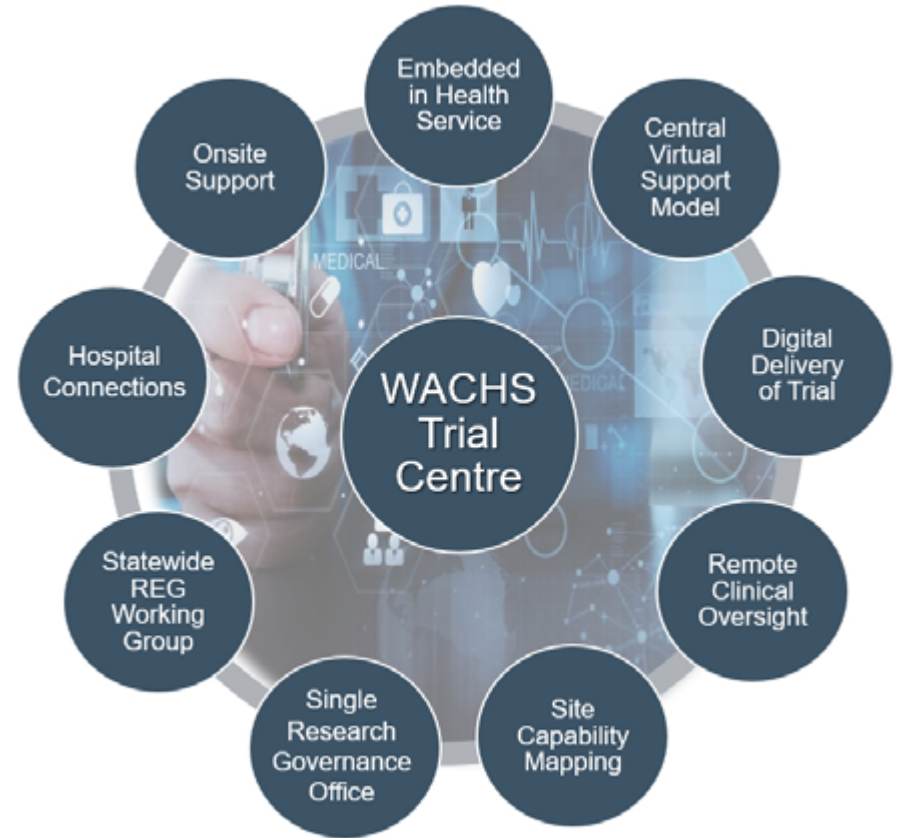
What is our centre?

Launched in 2022 and funded by the Commonwealth’s Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Australia Teletrial Program, the WACHS Trial Centre provides state-wide coordination of clinical trials across the WACHS network. The Centre prioritises clinical trial delivery via the nationally endorsed Australasian Teletrial Model to improve access to high-quality clinical trials for patients in country WA. The Centre enables place-based clinical trial therapy, empowering local health professionals to deliver the best patient care.

The Centre was established to provide the infrastructure, workforce, governance and digital capability that enables WACHS sites to participate in high-quality, regulated research. This enduring capability enables the opportunity for clinical trial delivery at more than 100 regional and remote locations.

With trials now running in specialties like diabetes, cancer and geriatrics, more patients have access to cutting-edge therapies that historically were only available in the metropolitan area.

We apply appropriate cultural governance to all aspects of our work to ensure that the needs, priorities, and perspectives of Aboriginal people are understood and respected. This includes engaging early and meaningfully with relevant Aboriginal stakeholder groups to determine whether the proposed trial is a priority, culturally appropriate, beneficial, and practical. As part of our Aboriginal consultation we have submitted an Aboriginal Health Impact Statement for the WACHS Trial Centre.



Our vision

Improve equity of access to high-quality clinical trial therapy for country Western Australians

Our mission

Deliver excellence in place-based clinical trial therapy through a centrally connected service for our diverse communities across country WA



Our strategic direction

Our priorities are to:

- **deliver excellence in clinical service** – we enable our country hospitals and patients to access the latest therapies through excellence and innovation in clinical trial service delivery
- **build an outstanding reputation** – the Centre is of the highest quality and is reliable, accountable and ethical. We are the preferred organisation for delivering clinical trials in rural and remote Australia.
- **drive advancement in health care** – we harness ethical innovation to advance country clinical trial delivery and drive improvements in health care outcomes



Program governance

Program Steering Group and Program Control Group

The WA implementation of the Australian Teletrial Program (ATP) is well governed to ensure appropriate clinical and corporate oversight of clinical trial operations, enabling us to maintain a standard of excellence in patient safety and data quality.



The WA Teletrial Program Steering Group (PSG) provides overarching governance and strategic direction for the implementation of the ATP in WA. It acts as the principal assurance mechanism across WACHS, the WA Department of Health, and the national ATP, which is administered by the Queensland Department of Health and reports to the Commonwealth.

The WA Teletrial Program Control Group (PCG) provides operational oversight and leadership for the implementation and delivery of the ATP in WA. The PCG functions as a key assurance body to the WA Teletrial PSG, supporting effective governance, risk management, and performance oversight across WACHS and the WA Department of Health.

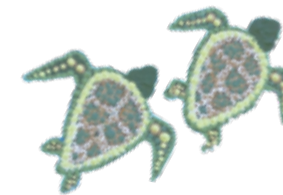
The commitment and expertise of the PSG and PCG members remain central to ensuring robust governance and the successful implementation of the ATP across WA.

National Clinical Trials Governance Framework

The National Clinical Trials Governance Framework (NCTGF), published in 2022 by the ACSQHC, embeds clinical trials into routine health service provision and strengthens the clinical and corporate governance arrangements for governments, hospital administrators, health services, private companies, trial sponsors and investigators.

The NCTGF is now being assessed as part of accreditation against the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) standards. WACHS underwent two separate assessments in 2025 for rural and remote regions. WACHS scored very highly in both assessments, demonstrating the high level of foundational clinical trial capability that the Centre has developed across the WACHS network.

By aligning with the NCTGF and championing policies that reduce the need for patients to travel, the WACHS Trial Centre is bridging the urban-rural divide by embedding research into routine care.





Institutional trial review framework

The WACHS Trial Review Group guides the selection of clinical trials implemented through the ATP in WA. The Trial Review Group forms an integral part of the WACHS Trial Centre governance. They assist the WACHS Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Strategy and Change in central oversight of clinical trial selection, via a trial review process.

The trial review process involves extensive stakeholder engagement, conducted in a step-wise manner to ensure effective and efficient engagement around pertinent clinical trial considerations.

Regular membership of the Trial Review Group includes WACHS Trial Centre Medical Lead, Clinical Trial Managers and Clinical Trial Coordinators. Subject Matter Experts provide advice on a trial specific basis. These include WACHS Senior Pharmacists, Clinical Directors and Radiology Directors.

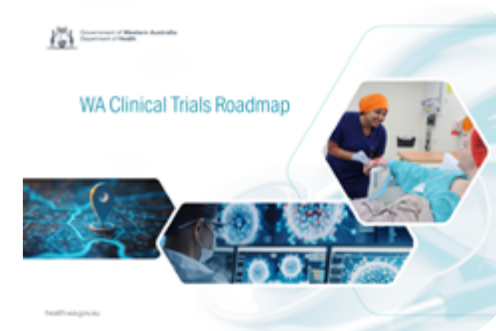


WA Clinical Trial Roadmap

The WA Clinical Trial Roadmap is a vision for every Western Australian to have access to world-class clinical trials that are embedded in routine clinical care. The inaugural Roadmap promotes equity of access to clinical trials, including people living in rural and remote locations. WACHS was an active member of the Roadmap Steering Committee, advocating for rural and remote communities to be central to the state’s clinical trial vision.

The ClinicalTrials WA network is a collaborative effort of Health Service Providers (HSPs) established to deliver the Roadmap. WACHS continues to play an active role within this network to promote WA as a preferred clinical trial partner by:

- standardising clinical trial policies and processes to support safe, consistent and equitable access for country patients
- delivering education and training to build workforce capability and uplift clinical trial capacity across WACHS
- promoting and increasing the visibility of clinical trials within WACHS and with external stakeholders
- providing localised support to attract, enable and sustain clinical trial participation in regional hospitals.



Stakeholders and engagement

The Trial Centre is strategically placed as the single point of contact for clinical trial conduct across WACHS sites. We are strongly connected to all relevant stakeholder groups, which is critical for the success of clinical trial delivery to the regions.

Aboriginal stakeholder engagement

Early and culturally informed engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders guided our decision-making regarding the FLASH-GM trial. Consultations were undertaken across central, regional, and local Aboriginal advisory bodies to assess whether the trial was a priority, appropriate, and beneficial for the Aboriginal community.

Through this process, advice was sought from the Great Southern Aboriginal Health Service, with support for the trial provided by the Great Southern Aboriginal Health Regional Planning Forum and letter of support provided by the Great Southern Aboriginal Health Service Manager.

This structured and culturally responsive engagement confirmed strong community and Aboriginal advisory body support.



Aboriginal group/community	Engagement month (2025 unless specified otherwise)	Method
Great Southern Regional Planning Forum	February 2024	Online
Great Southern Aboriginal Health Service	March 2024, July 2025	Online
Department of Aboriginal Health Strategy WA	June 2024 – January 2025	Email, online
Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum (KAHPF)	October 2024, June, August	In person
Kimberley Clinical Governance Committee	February	Online
Kimberley Aboriginal Health Research Alliance (KAHRA)	March, October	Online
South West Aboriginal Medical Service	April, May	Email, in person
Kimberley Regional Executive Team	July	In person
Wheatbelt Aboriginal Health Service	July, September, October, November	Online
WA Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee / Aboriginal Health Council of WA	August	Online
Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service (PAMS)	September	In person
Pilbara Aboriginal Health Alliance (PAHA)	September, October	Email

2025 Clinical Trial Roadshow launch

Across the month of May, the Centre, in partnership with the WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub and each metropolitan HSP, introduced the new regional clinical trial service to established clinical trial teams through a series of information sessions.

Our Clinical Trial Roadshow was scheduled to coincide with International Clinical Trials Day on 20 May.

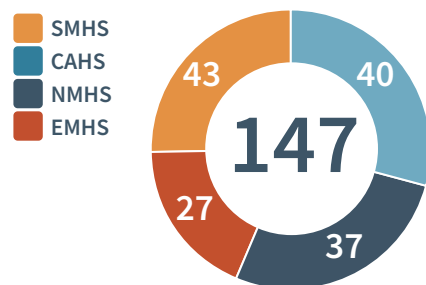
Each 90-minute session consisted of:

- an introduction to the Centre and the importance of clinical trial access for country patients, delivered by each HSP Director of Research
- an introduction to WACHS, delivered by a WACHS Executive Director, where possible
- a presentation on the Centre’s clinical trial service delivery model facilitating shared care across HSPs, delivered by the Teletrial Medical Lead and Clinical Trial Manager
- a panel discussion, hosted by each HSP Director of Research
- a lunch and networking opportunity with clinical trial teams and staff from the Centre.

Attendees included Directors, Trial Coordinators, Research Nurses, Medical Specialists, Research Officers, Pharmacists, Pathology and external industry stakeholders. Following the roadshow, the Centre forged strong relationships with key stakeholders across industry and HSPs.

We cross-promoted and featured on communication channels with the Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS), East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS), North Metropolitan Health Service (NMHS), South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS), and the WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub.

Number of attendees



This was also complemented by specialty specific meetings to support deeper discussion about patient clinical trial access at WACHS sites:

Tertiary service engaged	Department
Fiona Stanley Hospital	Haematology
	Nephrology
Perth Children’s Hospital	Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology
	Endocrinology
	Paediatrics
	Physiotherapy
Royal Perth Hospital	Dobney Hypertension Centre
	Haematology
	Hepatology
	Neurology
	Respiratory
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	Haematology
	Medical Oncology
	Neurology
The Kids Research Institute Australia	Infectious Diseases
	Respiratory

Regional leadership

Regional leadership engagement has progressed strongly with comprehensive presentations offered to WACHS Regional Executive.

- Initial introductions to the Regional Executive were conducted with online presentations (November, December) to the Kimberley, Pilbara and Goldfields. A whole of staff presentation, including the Executive, was provided to the South West Executive Director’s forum in December.
- Regional site visits were conducted to the Kimberley, Pilbara, Midwest, Goldfields, Great Southern and South West. A final visit to the Wheatbelt region is planned for early 2026.
- The Clinical Trials Safety and Quality Executive Committee report is provided to Regional Executive on a quarterly basis highlighting current and prospective trials for each individual region.
- We engaged with PathWest Lab Scientists in-charge, Regional Network Director and Regional Support Management to support sample processing for regional clinical trials, and continue to uplift regional sites with critical equipment.
- We engaged all Regional Chief Pharmacists using the pharmacy communication framework to develop tailored communication plans, clearly outlining the Teletrial process, the support provided by the Centre and key communication timepoints aligned to their preferred workflows. We conducted regional pharmacy site visits to Albany, Geraldton, Esperance and Kalgoorlie to strengthen relationships and support Teletrial readiness across WACHS sites.

Pharmacy leadership

- We collaborated with metropolitan Chief Pharmacists through the WA Health Chief Pharmacist Forum to guide strategic design decisions, and worked closely with the Regional Chief Pharmacist leadership group to plan governance requirements early, ensuring clinical trials could run smoothly across all rural sites.
- All metropolitan clinical trial pharmacy leads were engaged to develop tailored communication plans for workflow support. Pharmacy leadership was also demonstrated through the statewide collaborative effort to develop standardised processes.

Sponsor engagement

We highlight the work undertaken to promote WACHS’ reputation and the recognition received.

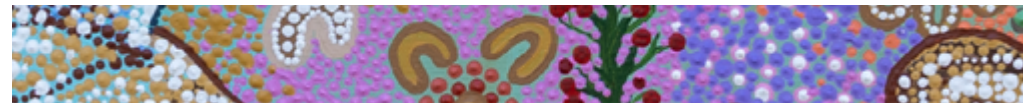
“

The WACHS Trial Centre has built a sustainable and inclusive model that brings hospitals across WA into clinical trials. With robust pharmacy support and high standards across sites like Esperance and Albany, patients can now access trials closer-to-home, giving me confidence in the success of our trials under the WA Trials model.”

Tyron Johnson, Senior Clinical Research Lead in Oncology from trial sponsor Eli Lilly.

This engagement was further strengthened through a presentation to the ATP Sponsor Advisory Group, providing an opportunity to showcase the WACHS service model and further build national sponsor confidence and reputation.

Sponsor engaged	Date (2025)
Eli Lilly	3 June
Novo Nordisk	23 July
Sanofi	23 July
Mobius	1 August
Roche	9 September
ProPharma	15 September
Vial	24 September
IQVIA	10 December



Education and training

WACHS delivers flexible clinical trial training options for rural and remote clinicians and support staff, with the aim of building clinical trial capability across country WA.

Training is supported by mentorship and workforce deployment opportunities, enabling rural and remote staff to develop clinical trial knowledge and skills that were previously limited to metropolitan sites.

To complement Good Clinical Practice modules available through MyLearning, the WACHS Trial Centre is currently developing additional training modules specific to clinical trial activity. These modules are intended to provide clinicians and support staff with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to provide clinical trials within WACHS sites.

Since the establishment of the Centre, over 1200 staff have received some aspect of clinical trial education through the WACHS Trial Centre.

National clinical trial pharmacy competency and training framework published

WACHS led the development of the national regional clinical trial training and competency requirements for the 2025 Advanced Pharmacy Australia Clinical Trial Registrar Training program. This work supports a nationally consistent, competency-based approach to building clinical trial pharmacy capability across jurisdictions.

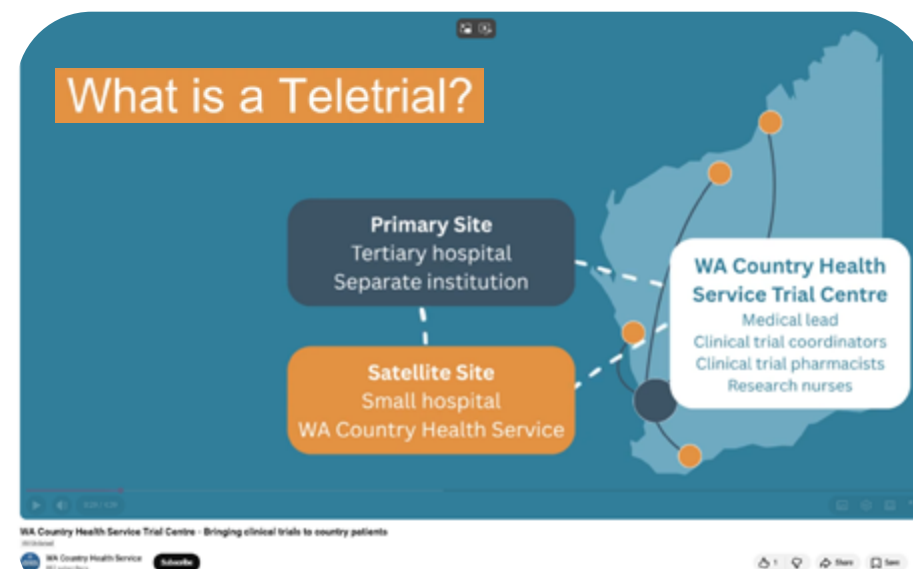
Building on this, development is underway for eLearning modules tailored to this framework, with input from trial pharmacists nationwide as well as our rural teams. Several modules are currently being made available to relevant staff and will be part of a broader, national rollout. These foundations enable us to create personalised, trial-specific training plans for rural pharmacists, delivered just-in-time for trial activation.

National training video

The WACHS Trial Centre led the design of an educational video, “What is a Teletrial?”, as part of a national training module developed in partnership with the Australian Clinical Trials Education Centre (ACTEC) Working Group. The video offers a clear, accessible introduction to the Teletrial model for health professionals and helps ensure consistent education across clinical trial teams in Australia, supporting the integration of Teletrials into routine practice.

WACHS patient video

The WACHS Trial Centre Community Reference Group designed a patient education video, [What is a Teletrial?](#). The video explains the purpose of clinical trials, what participation involves, and how the Teletrial model works. It provides an accessible introduction for patients to understand how they may access a clinical trial as part of their care at WACHS sites.





Infrastructure and equipment

Leading the way in clinical trial operations across Australia

Physical equipment/infrastructure delivery

A significant investment has been made to uplift regional sites with a range of equipment to support clinical trial conduct.

Pathology uplift has seen the purchase of Ultra Low Temperature -80°C freezers and refrigerated centrifuges. Progress has been made to improve temperature monitoring capability for pathology and pharmacy sites across WACHS with the procurement of a remote temperature monitoring system. Metropolitan and regional health campuses have assisted with early testing to ensure the end products are fit for purpose.

Digital delivery

The WACHS Trial Centre is driving digital innovation in clinical trial delivery fully aligned with the WA Digital Health Strategy and the WACHS Strategic Plan. Our approach prioritises investment in solutions that enable WA Health Service Providers to:

- ensure compliance with state and national legislation and Good Clinical Practice (GCP)
- expand trial capacity across rural and remote WA
- streamline processes to improve efficiency and productivity
- enhance equity of access for country patients
- strengthen WA's competitiveness in clinical research.

Delivering digital outcomes in line with strategic objectives requires ongoing collaboration across WACHS and the wider WA Health ecosystem to ensure integrated digital and business alignment, stakeholder engagement, and robust governance throughout every stage of implementation.

During 2025, digital delivery led and oversaw collaborative development, process design – along with digital and non-digital approvals, and achieved the following:

- Successfully built and maintained collaborative partnerships across multiple disciplines and entities.
- Clinical Trials ePrescribing software, with the development led by WACHS, was successfully integrated into the eMedications platform for whole of health and ready for use.
- Tender preparation and release to market for a whole of health clinical trial Investigational Product Management System, led by WACHS.
- Implementation of an electronic Investigator Site File and eConsent solution for management of clinical trial data at WACHS sites.
- Completed the Customer Relationship System trial period and provided a full analysis report.
- Commenced engagement and development of a Recruitment Software pilot with South Metropolitan Health Service.
- Developed requirements for a clinical trial compliant Electronic Medical Record (EMR) module.
- Delivered a digital upgrade and uplift for the Trial Centre intranet and internet sites.
- Delivered and embedded a Project Management Solution for Trial Centre project and portfolio management along with Decision-making and Conjoint Analysis Tools.



Workforce

The WACHS Trial Centre progressed the implementation of a centrally coordinated, sustainable and WACHS-wide clinical trials workforce model that can deliver high-quality clinical trial services across the WACHS network. The model ensures continuity of specialist expertise, supports and strengthens regional capability, and enables the delivery of high quality clinical trials across regional, district and selected small hospitals.

The workforce model combines a core team of specialists with flexible regional capacity. The specialist team provides leadership, governance,

and specialist trial expertise, partnering with local regional teams to build local capability over time. The team is responsible for deploying agile clinical trial delivery teams that enable all sites and therapeutic areas. These teams consist of highly skilled professionals who can flexibly respond to local clinical trial delivery needs across all regions. This hybrid approach balances efficiency with place-based delivery, ensuring compliance with the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework (NCTGF) and alignment with state and national strategies.



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Teletrials



Katrina Orr
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Karen Alarcon
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Sara Nazari
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Sharon Lockyer
Aboriginal Health
Research Translation Officer



Tina Firth
Clinical Trial
Coordinator



Vince Pang
Clinical Trial
Manager

Policy and process development

We have standardised WACHS-wide policies and processes to ensure high quality and compliant clinical trial delivery across all sites. Leadership on statewide and national workpieces have enabled us to achieve the following.

Teletrial Supervision Plan

WACHS led the national harmonisation of the Australian Teletrial Supervision Plan, which is a key document that articulates the allocation of clinical trials across sites.

Research Ethics and Governance (REG) Guide for Teletrials in WA

WACHS led the co-development of the WA Research Ethics and Governance Guide for Teletrials in WA with all Health Service Providers. This guide provides a standardised, statewide framework for co-reviewing Teletrials across institutions that is streamlined, collaborative and non-duplicitous.

Pharmacy Guide for Teletrials in WA

WACHS led the co-development of the WA Pharmacy Guide for Teletrials in WA with all Health Service Providers to provide a standardised, state-wide framework for safe, compliant and coordinated Investigational Product management across metropolitan and regional sites.

Clinical trial delivery

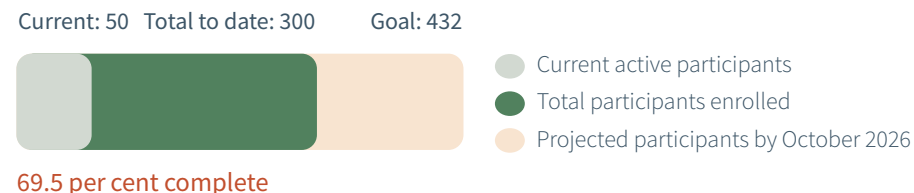
We support the entire clinical trial journey from start-up to close-out, including Teletrials where clinical trial care is shared across institutions.

Total clinical trials authorised



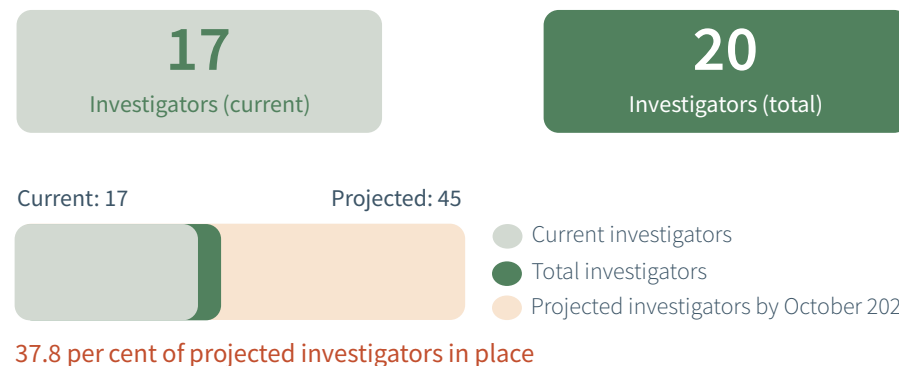
Clinical trial participants enrolled

In delivering these clinical trials, 300 participants have been enrolled to date, with 50 currently active participants and a projected number of 432 participants enrolled in WACHS Trial Centre clinical trials by October 2026.



WACHS active clinical trial investigators

To facilitate clinical trial delivery and participant enrolment, there are 20 (since program began) with 17 active Clinical Trial Investigators in place, with 45 active Clinical Trial Investigators projected to be in place by October 2026.



WACHS Trial Centre team

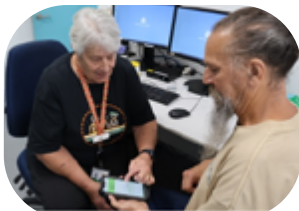

The Trial Centre has 15.4 (FTE) established, trained and available to deliver regional clinical trials and establish WACHS-wide clinical trial infrastructure.



Clinical trial delivery

Case studies

FLASH-GM (Albany) has enabled regional patients to participate in nationally sponsored research, without leaving their communities. Identified by Great Southern Aboriginal Health Clinical Nurse Diabetes Educators and supported by the Great Southern Aboriginal Health Regional Planning Forum.

Great Southern enrolls first patients in Flash-GM trial
Extract from published article 24/1/2025

Great Southern Clinical Nurse Credentialed Diabetes Educators Claire Groves from Katanning Health Service and Kerry Harker from Albany Health Campus are working with Aboriginal patients as part of a groundbreaking national study, the Flash-GM trial.

This Australia-wide study, led by the University of Melbourne, is testing a wearable device for continuous blood glucose monitoring (CGM) to improve diabetes care for Aboriginal patients living with Type 2 Diabetes.

The Flash-GM trial is a randomised controlled study that focuses on Indigenous Australians with Type 2 Diabetes. Using innovative CGM technology, the trial aims to show how continuous monitoring can lead to improved blood glucose control and better health outcomes for Aboriginal patients.

In a WA first, a regional hospital is the primary site for this Teletrial, with Principal Investigator Dr Lloyd Nash providing oversight at Albany Health Campus for both Albany and the satellite site at Katanning.

The study is supported by the experienced team at the WACHS Trial Centre, who provide frontline and virtual support for Teletrials across WACHS and look forward to improving equity of clinical trials access for country patients.

We enrolled our first participant at the Great Southern Aboriginal Health Service in July 2024 and at the Katanning Health Service in August 2024. We are excited to be part of such an important step forward in diabetes care.

FITTEST (Bunbury and Busselton) is enabling older people in regional WA to participate in this nationally sponsored clinical trial closer to home, addressing the needs of a community with a high ageing population. Participation in the trial has been championed through local clinicians and is supported by a team of physiotherapists and nurses.




FITTEST trial to reduce frailty in the South West
Extract from published article 01/12/2025

WACHS’s Trial Centre is progressing a first-of-its-kind FITTEST trial with geriatric patients in the South West. The FITTEST trial is aimed at reducing frailty in older adults by comparing interventions and prevention programs to assess the most effective method.

The clinical trial will evaluate a supervised group of mildly frail older adults at Bunbury Regional Hospital and Busselton Health Campus through tailored in-person exercise, online nutrition, medication review, social support and health coaching. Lead Investigators Dr Asan Akpan at Bunbury Regional Hospital and Dr Jiuan Ting at Busselton Health Campus will deliver the trial to South West communities. The trial will compare results from the supervised group against self-directed online programs, which will aim to identify what works well for older patients and consumers and inform improvements.

WACHS Consultant Geriatrician and Head of Geriatric Medicine Dr Asan Akpan said the South West was an obvious choice to start the trial which will provide valuable insights. “We’re looking forward to conducting this trial – it’s particularly exciting for me as a geriatrician to see the improvements we can put into practice,” he said. “In the South West, we have an ageing population so giving our older aged community members a more tailored approach to their health means they can feel more confident and informed when it comes to addressing any frailty they have.”

“*This trial will explore the best ways to support older, frail patients in taking part in a frailty prevention program. It will focus on nutrition, social connections, and regular exercise to support helping people to live independently for longer.*”
Dr Asan Akpan



GENESCREEN - DPYD Genotype-guided dose personalisation for Fluoropyrimidine prescribing in Cancer

A prospective pharmacogenomic trial to reduce serious toxicity from fluoropyrimidine and irinotecan chemotherapy by implementing pre-emptive DPYD and UGT1A1 genotyping. The trial is being conducted in partnership with regional oncology services and supported by the WACHS Trial Centre and the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). It aims to validate and operationalise a new model of personalised chemotherapy dosing.

The clinical trial intervention—real-time pharmacogenomic testing with clinician decision support—is being conducted in parallel to routine clinical workflows within WACHS. For participants enrolled into the trial, clinicians are actively using the genotyping results to adjust chemotherapy doses, and educational resources have increased patient and health professional awareness of the role of genetics in chemotherapy safety.

This trial, delivered in collaboration with Fiona Stanley Hospital through the Teletrial model, is enabling early integration of a precision medicine approach into standard oncology care in regional settings. It involves and anticipates strong clinician engagement, high patient recruitment, and evidence of reduced treatment-related toxicity—all prior to trial completion.

Consultant Oncologists Dr Ari Ariyapperuma and Dr Omar Faruque, together with Nurse Practitioner Kerin Young, are leading the study as Investigators, supported by Janeece Drage and Kristin Ellingson in local trial coordination. “Participation in clinical trials at Albany Health Campus enables our patients access to an important component of best practice in cancer care - access to novel therapies which are not otherwise available outside of clinical trials. This spares patients the heavy social, financial, and psychological impacts of traveling to Perth for treatment during illness.” said Kerin Young, Nurse Practitioner Albany Health Campus Cancer Centre.

The Trial Centre is providing both remote and onsite support for the Albany Cancer Centre, assisting with ethics and governance approvals, staff training, and the establishment of trial workflows.

“*Living regionally shouldn't preclude patients from accessing the best in clinical care. Our aim in the Albany Health Campus Cancer Centre is to bring timely, best practice specialist care closer to home, bridging that gap shown in the data of inequality of health outcomes for patients living rurally, when compared to those in metropolitan areas.*”

Janeece Drage, Cancer Services Nurse Manager (pictured above centre)
(Clinical Trial Managers: Claire Beardsmore at left and Natalee Lawson at right)

Sustainability

The WACHS Trial Centre is fully operational and leading clinical trial delivery in country WA. We provide corporate and clinical governance, have developed an expert workforce and are promoting WACHS services to the global pharmaceutical and medical device industry. We are the single point of contact for clinical trial delivery for commercial sponsors, collaborative research groups and metropolitan specialist partners.

The Trial Centre delivers a high-value service that is strongly aligned with the strategic priorities of WACHS, WA Health and national health and research frameworks. We are responding directly to challenges facing the health system and we are providing a practical, scalable solution to embed research and innovation in regional service delivery.

Looking to the future, the Trial Centre has submitted a Business Case seeking an extension of the current service beyond October 2026, with the investment to enable further delivery of clinical trials in rural and remote WA into the future.



Trial Centre in WACHS news

Clinical trials team advocating for country patients at the WA Rural Health Conference

Published 17/04/2025

Staff from the WACHS Trial Centre were on hand at the WA Rural Health Conference recently, promoting the importance of providing access to clinical trials for regional patients.



Held on the weekend of 22 and 23 March with the theme of Strengthening Rural WA: One connection at a time, the team took the opportunity to do just that – to meet with representatives from partner organisations, clinicians and colleagues to discuss the opportunities presented by the delivery of Teletrials in country WA.

Through the support the WACHS Trial Centre is providing clinicians, a growing number of regional patients can access clinical trials closer to home. Clinical trial treatment is currently being offered in a range of specialties, including diabetes, geriatrics and cancer care.

In his address to the conference on Equity of Access to Cancer Care for Rural Patients, Director of Haematology Dr Tony Calogero acknowledged rural and remote patients need greater access to cancer related clinical trials.

“When it comes to access to clinical trials, we know regional patients are often at a disadvantage,” Dr Calogero said. “The Teletrials program is starting to address that inequity”. Interest in clinical trials among country clinicians is increasing with visitors to our event booth keen to learn more about the support available.

Trial Centre launches new regional clinical trial service

Published 20/05/2025
for World Clinical Trials Day (excerpt)

Health professionals across WA are now equipped with the tools to access high-quality clinical trials for country patients with help from our new Trial Centre.



The WACHS Trial Centre is an innovative service that provides coordination and support for regional clinical trials, helping hospitals to provide care closer to home for regional patients.

Throughout May, the Trial Centre team delivered a series of presentations to staff at CAHS, NMHS, EMHS, SMHS and the WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub Spotlight series. Supported by WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub, the sessions included Q+A and networking opportunities and attracted a large turnout of multidisciplinary health professionals.

Established as part of the WA Teletrial Program, the Trial Centre has created an interconnected clinical trial workforce, bringing capability across regions of WA.

Albany Health Campus Internal Medicine Head of Department Dr Lloyd Nash said the program allowed regional health professionals to plug into a greater network.

“The exciting thing for Albany Health Campus as a participant in Teletrials is the ability to enrol patients in larger, multinational, multicentre trials, as a partner,” Dr Nash said. “The trial has already invested new equipment for Albany Health Campus, for example we’ve got an exciting new 3D camera that monitors the progression of wounds in patients with diabetic foot ulcer. That’s the kind of equipment that Albany Health Campus will see the benefit from, long after we’ve participated in this trial.”

WACHS Teletrials Medical Lead Dr Wei-Sen Lam said the organisation was investing in regional areas to employ more staff and educate them about how to conduct clinical trials. “The really good thing about trials is it’s all about newer treatments, newer interventions,” Dr Lam said. “For staff, it means that they get to use cutting edge treatment and interventions, so that’s very exciting for them. And for patients, it’s exciting for them to get access to these new treatments and drugs.”

2025 WA Health Excellence Awards finalists: WACHS Trial Centre

Published 19/11/2025 (excerpt)

The team behind a WACHS-led program that's improving access to clinical trials for rural and remote patients has been shortlisted for a major accolade at the 2025 WA Health Excellence Awards.

One of 10 Country Health Service finalists, the WACHS Trial Centre team is in the running for the award for Excellence in Rural and Remote Health Care.

The WA Teletrial Program delivers clinical trials directly to rural and remote health sites, ensuring local access to cutting edge therapies while maintaining international trial standards.

Launched in 2022 and funded by the MRFF the program uses the nationally endorsed Australasian Teletrial Model to deliver workforce training, infrastructure upgrades, and governance frameworks that are building enduring trial capability across regional WA.

By aligning with the NCTGF and championing policies that reduce the need for patients to travel, the WA Teletrial Program is bridging the urban-rural divide by embedding research into routine care.

The program has redefined equitable, high-quality healthcare for rural and remote Western Australians and increased clinical capability.

It's proving that innovation, collaboration, and commitment can overcome geography to deliver the latest healthcare to those who need it most, including people being treated for cancer and rare conditions.

The WA Health Excellence Awards celebrate individuals, teams and projects that have made remarkable contributions to WA's public health system in innovation and service delivery.

Winners were announced at a gala dinner on 25 November at Crown Perth.



Senior Pharmacist Katrina takes out conference award

Published 09/12/2025

Trials Centre Senior Pharmacist Katrina Orr speaks very passionately about her work.

So much in fact that at the recent Advanced Pharmacy Australia Medicines Management 2025 conference held in Melbourne, she took home the Best Pharmacy Practice Oral Presentation award.

Co-authored by Polly Pui and Hamish Burton the presentation entitled; New statewide clinical trial pharmacy service model enabling clinical trial access in country WA gave Katrina an opportunity to present to colleagues, academics and clinicians from right across Australia, providing a review of how the establishment of a coordinated clinical trial pharmacy service model for regional WA supports patient access to high-quality clinical trials via flexible, shared care delivery models.

Congratulations Katrina, Polly and Hamish for once again putting WACHS at the forefront of conversations around the advancement of healthcare for rural and remote communities.



Funding

The WA Teletrial Program is the Western Australian partner of the ATP, which was established in 2021 and is funded through the MRFF. The ATP was given a budget of \$75.2m over five years to October 2026, of which the WA Teletrial Program has been allocated \$11.3m.

The WA Teletrial Program allocates its annual budget aligned to the March and October funding and financial acquittal reporting cycles provided bi-annually to the MRFF.

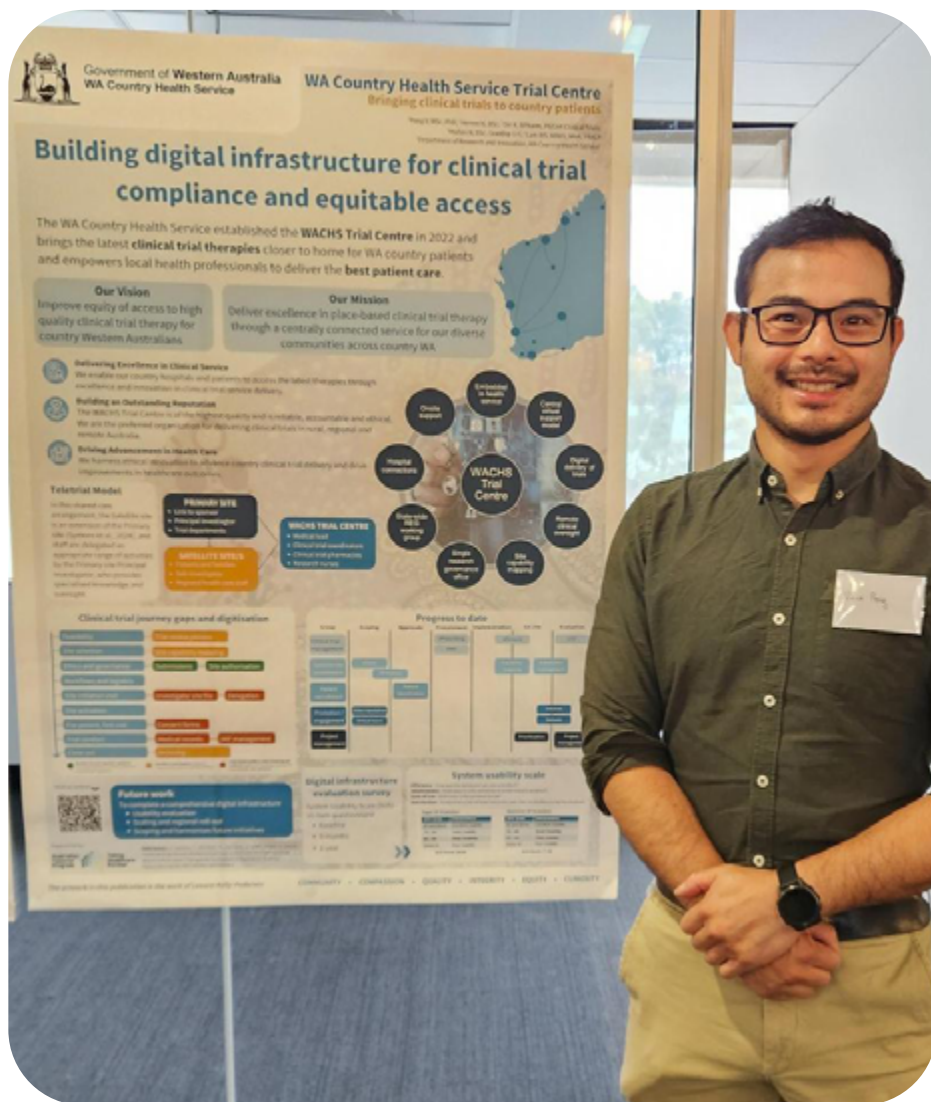
Dedicated resources for the WA Teletrial Program comprise the WACHS Trial Centre leadership and workforce, who work across both program implementation and the delivery of clinical trials, as well as specific program team roles focused only on program implementation activities.



\$11.3 million allocated to WA



Trial Centre conference presentations 2025



Date	Conference	Abstract title	Presenter
26/03/25	ATP Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA) National Summit 2025	ATP Teletrials Workshop, developed and chaired by WA	Katrina Orr
05/06/25	ARCS Annual Conference 2025	Clinical trials closer to home: Building digital infrastructure for GCP compliance to improve clinical trial access and inclusivity for rural and remote patients (oral presentation)	Nadine Herren
02/07/25	2025 Digital Health and Telemedicine Summit	Teletrials - Building digital infrastructure to improve access for rural and remote patients (oral presentation)	Wei-Sen Lam
09/10/25	10th Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium	Building digital infrastructure for clinical trial compliance and equitable access (oral presentation)	Vince Pang (pictured)
27/10/25	Blood 2025, Nurses Symposium	Rural and remote (oral presentation)	Claire Beardsmore
29/10/25	WA Health Innovation showcase	Building digital infrastructure for clinical trial compliance and equitable access (poster presentation)	Vince Pang
27/11/25	Medicines Management 2025	New statewide clinical trial pharmacy service model enabling clinical trial access to country WA (oral presentation)	Katrina Orr

Trial Centre milestones 2021 - 2025

“
Very grateful to the team for all the tremendous support ongoing to get FITTEST up and running”
Principal investigator Dr Asan Akpan regarding support in study activation.

“
Attending the trial locally is very convenient for me... It's very good and satisfying”
Trial participant on FLASH-GM clinical trial experience.

2021

Laying the foundations: funding sourced

- ✓ An interstate consortium including WACHS applied to the MRFF for a regional clinical trial enabling infrastructure grant.
- ✓ Successful bid saw the ATP awarded \$75.2 million over 5 years, with \$11.3 million allocated to WA.
- ✓ Established Medical Research Future Fund Grant Agreement sub-contract between WACHS and Queensland Health, the grant holder.

2022

Program kick-off: Early workforce and site engagement

- ✓ Executed funding sub-contract
- ✓ Commenced workforce establishment:
 - Recruited medical lead, clinical trial pharmacist, clinical trial manager, and project lead
- ✓ Commenced regional engagement:
 - Engaged Albany/Great Southern for pilot trial
- ✓ Scoped digital and regulatory groundwork:
 - Options for service model
 - Digital and physical infrastructure
 - Baxter licence limitations to deliver clinical trial infusions regionally
- ✓ Established WA Country Health Service Trial Centre and commenced recruitment
- ✓ Launched Teletrial Support Program fund distribution
- ✓ Secured funded access to Australian Clinical Trial Education Centre (A-CTEC) for WA

2023

Mapping Infrastructure and Governance for Sustainable Trial Delivery

- ✓ Progressed regulatory and governance frameworks:
 - Established WA Teletrial Research Ethics and Governance Working Group
 - Established WA Teletrial Clinical Advisory Group
 - Established WA Clinical Trial Pharmacy Group
 - Established WA National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards Clinical Trial Governance Framework Working Group
 - Developed Institutional Trial Review Framework
 - Conducted scenario mapping for clinical trial research agreements
 - Commenced agreement development with State Solicitor's Office
- ✓ Stakeholder engagement:
 - Participation in Kimberley Aboriginal Research Health Forum
 - Commenced engagement with District Health Advisory Council (DHAC)
 - Commenced regional executive engagement
 - Centre presented to WACHS Board
- ✓ Expanded infrastructure:
 - Secured co-located WACHS Teletrial Pharmacy storage at Fremantle Hospital Pharmacy
 - Pre-concept approval for two digital trial software platforms
 - Implemented decision making tool
- ✓ Advanced clinical trial activity:
 - VITAFoot trial authorised and commenced between Fiona Stanley Hospital and Albany Health Campus
 - Gap analysis of service requirements commenced



Milestones continued



2025

Workstream implementation supports growing service delivery



2024

Clinical trial eco-system foundations established

- ✓ Finalised implementation domains:
 - Eight workstreams required to enable clinical trial infrastructure
- ✓ Progressed governance structures:
 - Established cost centres
 - Commenced metric reporting to Safety and Quality Executive Committee
- ✓ Broadened engagement:
 - Developed WA Teletrial stakeholder engagement and marketing strategy 2024
 - Established WA Teletrial Community Reference Group
 - Engaged Regional Aboriginal Health Consultant forum
 - Commenced regional clinical engagement
- ✓ Digital infrastructure:
 - Developed WA Teletrial Digital Strategy 2024
 - Implemented electronic Investigator Site File
 - Implemented eConsent
 - Implemented Site Capability database and customer relationship management software
- ✓ Policy development:
 - Published Australian Teletrial Supervision Plan, nationally harmonised and led by WACHS
 - Planning and scoping to lead the national Investigational Medicinal Product transport guidelines
 - Published WA Health Teletrial Research Ethics Governance guide
 - Structured communication workflows developed for inter-site coordination
- ✓ Advanced clinical trial activity:
 - Telekinesis trial authorised and commenced between Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Geraldton Health Campus
 - FLASH-GM trial authorised and commenced between Albany Health Campus and Katanning

- ✓ Governance uplift:
 - Establishment of Project Control and Steering Groups
 - External funding programs established to drive activity
 - Established clinical governance framework
- ✓ Workforce:
 - Developed WA Trial Centre Workforce Model report 2025
- ✓ Continued stakeholder collaboration:
 - Launched Trial Centre public website
 - Launched Trial Centre to tertiary hospitals at a Clinical Trial Roadshow
 - Developed Stakeholder engagement plan
- ✓ Digital infrastructure:
 - Implemented Project Management Solution
 - Led development and released clinical trial features for WA Health ePrescribing software
- ✓ Education and Training:
 - National clinical trial pharmacy competency and training framework published, led by WACHS personnel
 - Developed WA Teletrial Education and Training Strategy 2025
- ✓ Advanced clinical trial activity:
 - Multidisciplinary clinic established and FITTEST trial authorised and commenced between Bunbury and Busselton
 - Genescreen trial authorised and commenced between Fiona Stanley Hospital and Albany Health Campus
 - SSOLID trial recruited first 2 participants
- ✓ Policy development:
 - WA clinical trial participants without sponsor subsidy eligible for PATS subsidies
 - WACHS Engaging Consumers policy increased scope of reimbursement accepted
 - Published the WA Health Teletrial Pharmacy guide
 - Received literature review for Investigational Medicinal Product transport guidelines
 - Developed evaluation and benefits framework
 - Submitted national proposal for all trial agreements to be satellite-site ready
 - Submitted national proposal to waive Therapeutic Goods Administration fees for notifying satellite sites
- ✓ Reputational impact:
 - WACHS selected for their first commercial clinical trial
- ✓ Sustainability:
 - Hosted international expert on UK clinical trial model
 - Submitted business case for service continuity
 - Submitted request for program grant extension
- ✓ Recognition of service innovation:
 - WA Health Excellence Award finalist
 - Best service presentation at 2025 Medicines Management 2025



WA Country Health Service Trial Centre

'Bringing clinical trials to country patients'

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