



CHILDREN'S
HEALTHCARE
AUSTRALASIA



CHA

Prospectus

Accelerating the sharing of excellence and innovation among health services caring for children and their families across Australia and New Zealand.

Acknowledgement of First Nations People

Acknowledgement of Country

Children's Healthcare Australasia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, including the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples, the

Traditional Custodians of the Kamberri/Canberra region upon which our office is located.

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional custodians of the lands on which we live and work, and acknowledge that sovereignty of the land we call Australia has never been ceded.

We acknowledge Māori as tangata whenua (original inhabitants) and Treaty of Waitangi partners in Aotearoa New Zealand. We recognise the tikanga (customary practices) of Maori and support their right to tino rangatiratanga (sovereignty).

Our Commitment

CHA is committed to supporting health services and professionals in partnering with First Nations Australians and Māori to recognise and improve the disparity in health outcomes and pledge our ongoing support to the goal of achieving health equity.

We commit to listening to and learning from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori people about how we can improve experiences and outcomes of healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori children and young people, their families, and communities.

Acknowledging our Member's Contribution

Children's Healthcare Australasia acknowledges the contribution of our members since our establishment in 1988.

We are a member-led organisation driven by our vision for all children and young people to receive safe, high quality, and equitable healthcare. We strive to accelerate the sharing of excellence and innovation among health services caring for children, young people, and their families.

Our vision is achieved through facilitating connection and collaboration between our members who generously share expertise, ideas, examples of best practice, and challenges with one another.

We would like to thank our members for their work, dedication, and commitment to our vision, and for their time and generosity in contributing to the CHA Member's Community.

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June 2025

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Our Member's Community

95+ member sites
across Australia and New Zealand

NSW

Hunter New England Local Health District - HNE Kids Health:

- Armidaale Rural Referral Hospital
- John Hunter Children's Hospital
- Maitland Hospital
- Manning Rural Referral Hospital
- Tamworth Rural Referral Hospital

Northern Sydney Local Health District:

- Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital
- Royal North Shore Hospital

Sydney Children's Hospitals Network:

- Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick
- The Children's Hospital at Westmead

ACT

ACT Health:

- Centenary Hospital for Women & Children

SA

Southern Adelaide Local Health Network:

- Flinders Medical Centre

Northern Adelaide Local Health Network:

- Lyell McEwin Hospital
- Modbury Hospital

Women's & Children's Health Network

NT

Department of Health NT:

- Alice Springs Hospital
- Gove District Hospital
- Katherine Hospital
- Royal Darwin & Palmerston Hospital
- Tennant Creek Hospital

TAS

Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania:

- Launceston General Hospital
- North West Regional Hospital
- Royal Hobart Hospital

QLD

Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service:

- Atherton Hospital
- Cairns Hospital
- Innisfail Hospital
- Mareeba Hospital
- Mossman Multi Purpose Health Service
- Tully Hospital

Children's Health Queensland Hospital & Health Service:

- Queensland Children's Hospital

Gold Coast Health Service:

- Gold Coast University Hospital
- Robina Hospital

Mackay Base Hospital and Health Service:

- Collinsville Multi-Purpose Health Service
- Mackay Base Hospital
- Sarina Hospital & Community Health Service
- Dysart Hospital
- Prosperpine Hospital
- Clermont Multi-Purpose Health Service
- Moranbah Hospital
- Bowen Hospital

Metro North Hospital and Health Service:

- Caboolture Hospital
- Redcliffe Hospital
- The Prince Charles Hospital

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service:

- Gympie Hospital
- Sunshine Coast University Hospital

Townsville Hospital & Health Service:

- Townsville University Hospital

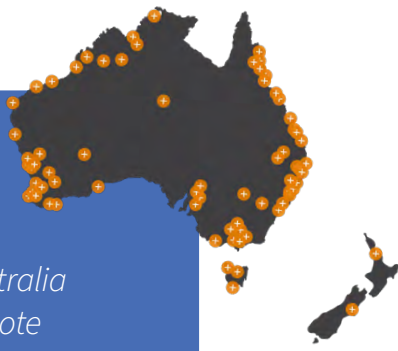
West Moreton Hospital & Health Service:

- Ipswich Hospital

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service:

- Bundaberg Hospital
- Hervey Bay Hospital
- Maryborough Base Hospital





CHA is a unique organisation that has knowledge of Health Services across Australia and nearby neighbours. It works to promote and support networking, system management, risk management, quality improvement, sharing of new models of care, professional development, benchmarking, problem solving, and translation of new evidence etc. Their role in linking professionals/services supports functioning networks for better health care and outcomes for children.



- Megan Kentish
 Program Director | Physiotherapist | Queensland Paediatric Rehabilitation Service | Queensland Children’s Hospital

VIC

Austin Health

Barwon Health:

University Hospital Geelong

Bendigo Health

Eastern Health:

Angliss Hospital
 Box Hill Hospital
 Healesville Hospital
 Maroondah Hospital

Grampians Health Ballarat

Mercy Health:

Werribee Mercy Hospital

Monash Health:

Casey Hospital
 Dandenong Hospital
 Monash Medical Centre

Peninsula Health:

Frankston Hospital

The Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne

South West Healthcare:

Warrnambool Base Hospital

Western Health:

Sunshine Hospital - Joan Kirner
 Women’s & Children’s Hospital

WA

Child & Adolescent Health Service:

Perth Children’s Hospital

East Metropolitan Health Service:

Armadale Health Service

North Metropolitan Health Service:

Joondalup Health Campus

South Metropolitan Health Service:

Fiona Stanley Hospital

St John of God Health Care:

Raphael Services
 St John of God Midland Public Hospital

WA Country Health Service:

Albany Health Campus
 Bridgetown Hospital
 Broome Hospital
 Bunbury Hospital
 Busselton Health Campus
 Carnarvon Hospital

Collie Hospital
 Denmark Health Service
 Derby Hospital
 Esperance Hospital
 Fitzroy Crossing Hospital
 Geraldton Hospital
 Halls Creek Hospital
 Hedland Health Campus
 Kalgoorlie Health Campus
 Karratha Health Campus
 Katanning Hospital
 Kununurra Hospital
 Margaret River Hospital
 Narrogin Health Service
 Northam Hospital
 Warren Hospital
 Wyndham Hospital

NZ

Health New Zealand -

Te Whatu Ora:

Starship Children’s Hospital
 Christchurch Hospital



Our Mission

To be a trusted and influential champion for improving children's and young people's health and healthcare services

95+ Member hospitals across Australia and New Zealand

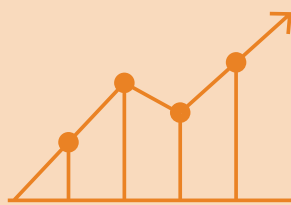
CHA connects over **11,785+** paediatric professionals



810+ additional paediatric professionals joined the CHA's member's community in the past year



CHA members care for **75%** of children requiring admission to hospitals each year



145+ benchmarking reports distributed to members during 2023-24 period

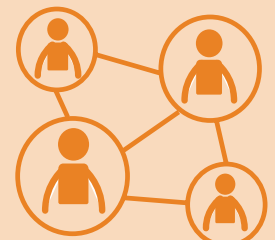
45+

virtual networking meetings hosted to help members connect with and learn from peers



4,280+

Paediatric professionals registered to participate in 46 network-led web conferences



350

video presentations about innovations in child and family centred care available in our member's community 24/7

Our Vision

Healthy and thriving children, young people and families





Member Benefits

CHA is proud to support a wide range of members, from large specialist hospitals to small rural services throughout Australasia, to network and learn from one another. Our members are united by their dedication to providing excellence in paediatric care.

Our members have access to a valuable range of services and benefits, including:



Networking Opportunities

CHA makes it possible for like-minded paediatric care professionals and service managers to easily connect with one another. Our members have exclusive access to an array of Networking Groups that allow them to communicate with their peers throughout Australia and New Zealand. These networks communicate online, via web conference, and in annual face-to-face events.



Benchmarking Services

Benchmarking with peers is a valuable tool for health services seeking to assess the quality, safety and efficiency of the care they provide to young people. CHA offers all member hospitals the opportunity to participate in our benchmarking services. The data collected and shared addresses management of the health service (trends in activity, length of stay, costs per patient episode, etc).

CHA recognises that each paediatric service is unique in terms of the community it serves, the facilities and capabilities it has to offer children and families, and the skill mix of clinical teams. Benchmarks are provided to group services with peers of a similar size and capability, allowing them to compare their performance with similar paediatric hospitals throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Benchmarking reports are published annually, and data is also available via a secure online portal. Benchmarking results help services identify areas where individual performance is strong in relation to peers, as well as potential areas of improvement.





Quality Improvement

Improving the safety and quality of care provided to children and young people is an abiding theme across all of CHA's activities. Many of the Networking Groups consider this issue as part of their regular networking, and some Networking Groups are dedicated specifically to this challenge. CHA also invites prominent experts from across Australia and New Zealand, as well as internationally to share their expertise with our members.



A rich array of information and resources from peer services

CHA members generously share ideas, advice, resources, images, videos, tools and other resources specific to paediatric healthcare through our secure online Member's Community.



Advocacy Services

CHA is a respected advocate for the paediatric services sector. Government agencies and other stakeholders seek advice from CHA on a wide range of issues related to the provision of paediatric care. CHA consults closely with its members on each issue and can speak on behalf of the sector without the restrictions that can apply to individuals employed by a given health service. We take this responsibility seriously and ensure that all advice or advocacy provided is credible, factual and informed by our members. Copies of CHA submissions and media releases are published on our website.



Our Vision

Children's Healthcare Australasia (CHA) is a non-profit community of children's hospitals and paediatric units throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Originally established in 1988 as the Association of Paediatric Teaching Hospitals, CHA has a long history of providing support to children's hospitals and paediatric services, and facilitating sharing and learning among healthcare providers about best practice. Since 2011, we have been working under the name 'Children's Healthcare Australasia' in recognition of the whole patient journey across healthcare settings.

CHA recognises that managers and clinicians involved in the care of children and young people face similar challenges, despite each service being unique. We recognise that the expertise for addressing these common challenges, and for coming up with innovative solutions, lies within the member community.

That's why our primary focus is on helping managers and clinicians of paediatric services to network with one another, to share their ideas and expertise efficiently. We facilitate the spread of best practice.



When a health service joins CHA, all managers and clinicians involved in providing care to children and young people are welcome to access to an extensive range of Networking Groups, face-to-face networking meetings and our secure online Member's Community. These services make it easy to meet and interact with people with similar challenges and responsibilities in other paediatric services. CHA members are generous in sharing their expertise, ideas and lessons learnt through CHA networks. Everyone is motivated by the same goal: to improve the services and treatment received by children and their families requiring hospital care.



Vision

Our vision is for all children and young people to receive safe, high quality and equitable healthcare. We strive to accelerate the sharing of excellence and innovation among health services caring for children, young people, and their families. Our mission is to support all member organisations to provide children, young people and their families with the highest standard of care possible. At Children's Healthcare Australasia we:

- Identify best practice through performance benchmarking among members,
- Support the sharing of information and expertise on health service delivery and quality improvement through member networking,
- Showcase innovations that improve clinical outcomes for young people,
- Advocate to governments and other stakeholders on issues of common interest to members related to children's healthcare.



Our Team

Board of Directors

President

Mr John Stanway

Vice Presidents

Ms Maeve Downes

Nursing Director
Lyell McEwin Hospital, SA

Dr Julie Green

Director
CHA & Queen Elizabeth
Centre

Our Staff

Dr Barb Vernon

Chief Executive Officer

Kelly Eggleston

Executive Assistant

Board Members

Dr Neil Archer

Clinical Director of Paediatrics
Cairns and Hinterland
Hospital and Health
Service, QLD

Dr Andy Lovett

Paediatrician,
WA Country Health Service -
Pilbara

**Adjunct A/Prof
Cathryn Cox**

Chief Executive Officer
Sydney Children's Hospitals
Network, NSW

Ms Nicola Scott

Nursing Director
Women's and Children's
Health, Christchurch Hospital,
NZ

Dr Paul Craven

Executive Director
Children, Young People &
Families Services
Hunter New England Kids
Health, NSW

**Adjunct Prof Frank
Tracey**

Chief Executive,
Children's Health Queensland
Hospital & Health Service,
QLD

A/Prof David Fuller

Director
Women, Children and
Families Directorate,
Barwon Health, VIC

Benchmarking:

Elijah Zhang
Benchmarking Manager

Team:

Shirley Zhou
Darcy Gooday
Liyou You

Operational:

Gill McGaw
Business Manager

Team:

Sharon Dohlad
Carmel Looby
Peter Oslington
Vivien Nguyen
Ravishel Naicker
Alex Gomez
Kasia Pownall
Caitlin McGaw

Networking & Projects:

Leila Kelly
Networking Coordinator

Sarah Elliott
Clinical Projects Coordinator

Team:

Jenny Hong
Priya Gokani
Yian Noble





Our Governance



About our Preseident

Mr. John Stanway
President

Children's Healthcare Australasia

Children's Healthcare Australasia is a not for profit organisation that exists wholly because of the dedication and passion of all of us as clinicians, managers and administrators for improving the health and well being of children and young people. Through CHA we share information, resources and ideas in a community of trust and common interest. The value of this community of interest has never been stronger than in the current climate of significant change and challenge.

As President of CHA John brings many decades of experience both in children's healthcare and in health system governance & leadership. John was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at The Royal Children's Hospital from April 2017 until his retirement in July 2021. Prior to commencing in this role, John was the Chief Operating Officer at The Royal Children's Hospital for more than ten years, overseeing clinical operations. From 2012, John also held the position of Deputy CEO.

Before joining The Royal Children's Hospital, John managed Monash Medical Centre, was Chief Executive of the Transport Accident Commission and held various senior management roles at General Motors Holden.

John has a double major in Economics and a Graduate Diploma in Industrial Relations and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. John was also President of the Victorian Hospitals Industrial Association and Chairman for 10 years. John is a former Board Director of The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation, Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Ltd, Murdoch Children's Research Institute.



CHA is a great network which promotes a wide range of interesting topics and speakers giving opportunity for new ideas to be disseminated and new connections.

[CHA membership] has given me insights into new ideas I could put into practice in my setting, and to share our thoughts with others, while giving insights into how to address issues we are facing.

**- Fiona Miles, Paediatric Intensivist,
Starship, Children's Hospital, NZ**





Benchmarking Program

The CHA Benchmarking Program is the only dedicated children's health benchmarking program in Australia and New Zealand with 95+ children's hospitals and paediatric units participating annually.

Benchmarking with peers is one of the important tools available to a health service seeking to assess the quality, safety, and efficiency of care delivered to babies, children, and young people. It is equally important to review trends within a facility over time to determine whether the variation between periods is what would be expected or whether it is due to a special cause. Such information has enduring value over time but is particularly relevant in the context of significant policy and political focus on the efficiency of government spending on public hospital services.



The benchmarking report and portal are valuable tools to facilitate conversations with clinical and business resources within our service. This allows us to raise awareness of variations in LOS, cost, and comparisons between KPIs across the organisations within the consortium.



- Micheline Maddaford
Costing and Analysis Manager, The Sydney
Children's Hospitals Network



The CHA benchmarking program makes it quick and easy to see what's changing over time and to identify opportunities to improve models of care and lower costs.





Our members are generous in sharing insights, expertise, tools, and resources related to new models of care or other improvements revealed in the benchmarking data with their peers.

Access to the CHA Benchmarking program includes:

Tailored activity and costing data dashboards to assist members to quickly identify how their service is performing in comparison with peer services caring for similar children. It includes comparative data and trend lines on separation, length of stay, same day admission, urgent re-admissions, average cost, hospital-acquired complications, as well as variations in the principal diagnosis and/or principal procedures.

Benchmarking CHA Dashboard Indicators monitoring clinical effectiveness and efficiency. The indicators allow

service managers to pinpoint areas of their service's performance that may warrant further investigation or action.

Access to a wide range of interactive benchmarking data analytics via our secure online data portal, Tableau. Executive briefings for service leaders about the key implications for their service of the benchmarking in terms of opportunities to enhance the value of their services.

CHA collects two different forms of data to assist members to assess and compare their performance with peers:

1

Activity and costing data which compares activity, acuity, ALOS re-admissions, and hospital acquired complications.



2

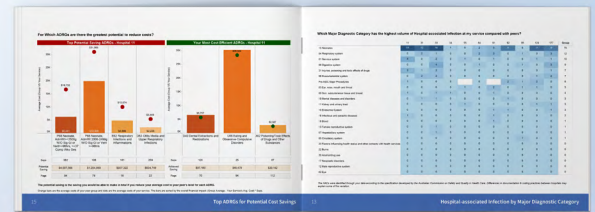
A dashboard of clinical indicators reflecting clinical workload and patient experience of care.



Activity and Costing Benchmarking

CHA helps you target potential cost savings for high-volume diagnosis groups of children at your service. You can see at a glance the areas of potential for efficiency savings in comparison to your peers caring for similar children.

CHA has collected all diagnosis and procedures (ICD level data) for inpatients from all CHA members. This enables analysis of variations in care, as well as comparative rates of Hospital-Acquired Complications (HAC).



CHA has extended its Activity and Costing Benchmarking in two areas:

1. Emergency Department Benchmarking (ED)

- This includes summary tables and charts for selected Major Diagnostic Blocks in terms of:
- overall number of presentations;
- number of patients who presented;
- number of re-presentations to the ED;
- average waiting times and length of stay in ED;
- admission rate;
- average costs.

2. Outpatient Benchmarking

- This includes summary charts for both hospitals and clinics:
- number of appointments;
- number of patients;
- average number of times a patient attends the same clinic;
- average number of clinics a patient visits;
- new to follow up ratio;
- Did Not Attend (Was Not Brought) rates;
- average cost and allocations to cost buckets.



Clinical Indicators Benchmarking

Paediatric units Clinical Indicators comprise both quarterly-reported indicators and annually-reported indicators. Indicators are grouped into relevant categories including:

- Emergency Care;
- Inpatients;
- Outpatients;
- Surgeries;
- Paediatric Intensive Care;
- Safety and Quality; and
- Human Resources.



In consultation with members, CHA has developed differentiated dashboards for children's hospitals from that for paediatric units, enabling members to focus on the indicators that are most relevant to their service capacity and scope, and to benchmark with other similar hospitals.



Advancing Paediatric Care through Data-Driven Insights

Relative Stay Index (RSI) – Purpose-Built for Paediatrics

CHA has successfully developed a paediatric-specific Relative Stay Index (RSI) model, leveraging five years of comprehensive hospital data to estimate expected lengths of stay for individual children. Unlike conventional RSI models—often adapted from adult datasets—our model is purpose-built for the paediatric population, harnessing the power of advanced machine learning techniques that excel in handling complex, high-dimensional data.



This modernised approach has led to a significant improvement in the model’s explanatory performance. For high-volume paediatric diagnoses, our RSI model achieves an R-squared value more than three times higher than that of standard regression methods—resulting in more meaningful and accurate benchmarking.

The model is tailored by Major Diagnostic Category (MDC) and adjusts for a comprehensive set of clinical and demographic factors, including:

- Diagnosis-related group (DRG)

- ICU admission
- Distance from patient’s residence to hospital
- Socio-economic status
- Indigenous status
- Age and sex
- Admission and discharge modes
- Planned vs unplanned admissions
- Presence of chronic conditions
- Comorbidities

This provides our member hospitals with a more refined, fair and insightful way to measure and compare performance across the sector.

Using Data to Monitor Sector-Wide Trends

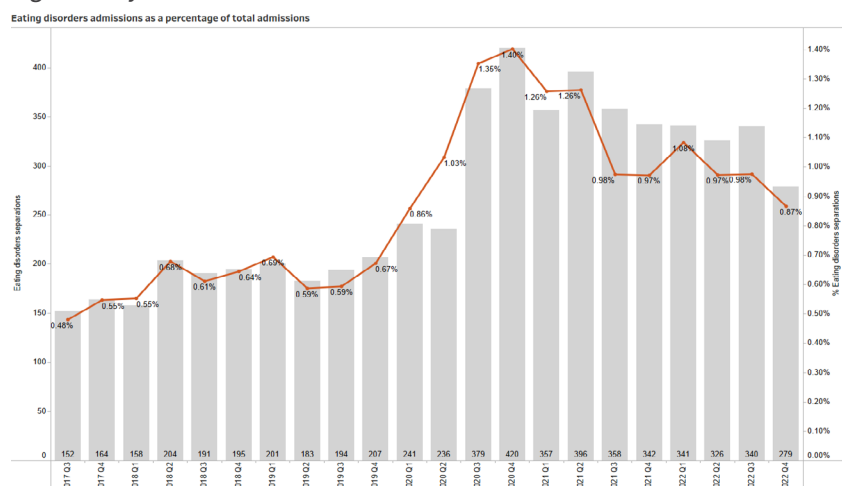
In addition to benchmarking individual hospital performance, CHA’s activity dataset continues to generate powerful insights into emerging trends and sector-wide challenges.

Recent analyses include:

Rising Eating Disorder Presentations

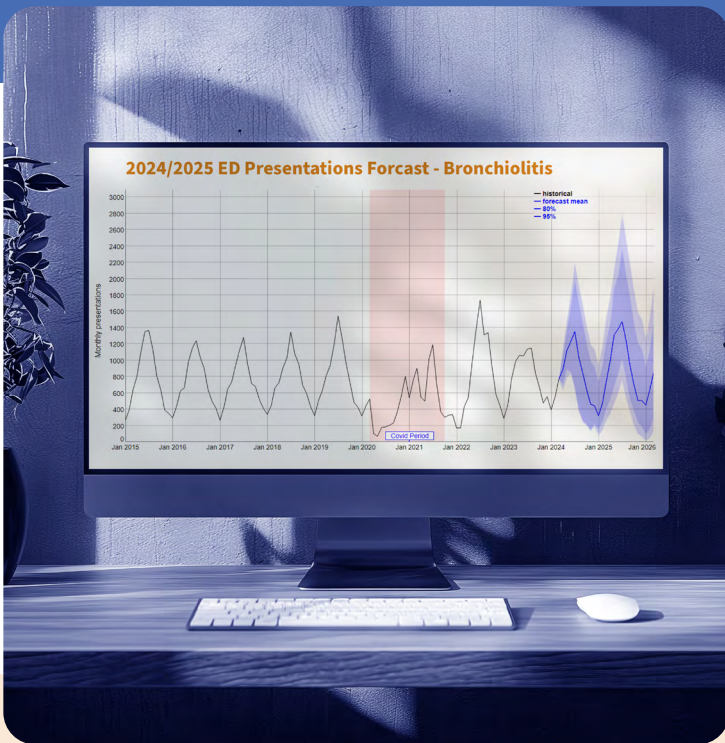
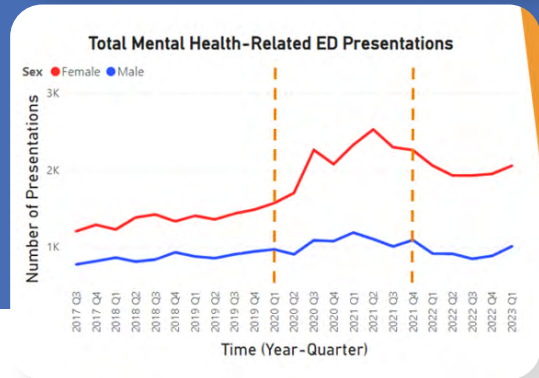
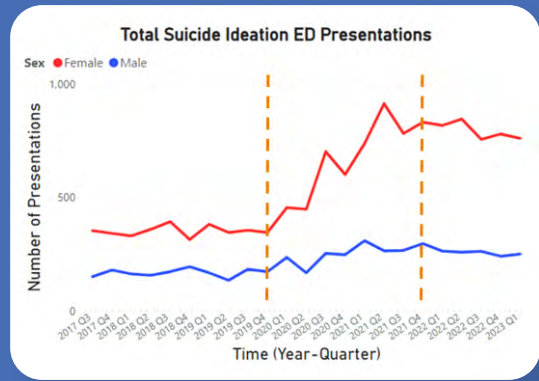
Paediatric services across Australia are witnessing a significant increase in hospital presentations for eating disorders. CHA’s inpatient activity data is being used to investigate variations in models of care and associated outcomes for these vulnerable children—highlighting key differences and opportunities for service improvement.

Both separations and proportion of patients admitted with eating disorders rose significantly since October 2020



Emergency Presentations for Suicide Ideation

CHA's analysis of Emergency Department data from member hospitals revealed that ED presentations for suicide ideation among children more than doubled from pre-pandemic levels to their peak in April–June 2021—a rise of approximately 115%. While numbers have since declined, they remain around 82% above pre-COVID levels. Stratifying the data by sex, Indigenous status, and socioeconomic background has surfaced critical insights to inform care planning and targeted interventions.



Seasonal Surges in Respiratory Conditions

By analysing eight children's hospitals, CHA explored patterns in admissions and ED presentations for RSV, asthma, bronchiolitis, and croup. This work has helped to identify predictable seasonal trends, supporting better planning and allocation of hospital resources during peak winter periods.

First Nations Children's Health Dashboard

CHA is partnering with sector leaders to co-design a national dashboard focused on benchmarking the quality of care provided to First Nations children. This initiative reflects our commitment to equity and Culturally Safe care.

8.94%

of the selected service's inpatients identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

This compares to the CHA average of **6.34%**



Networking

All staff of member services are welcome to participate in any of our Networking Groups, share the challenges, test ideas, learn about successes, share tools and resources. Be inspired by logging in to our online Member's Community.

Overview

When a health service joins CHA, all staff involved in its paediatric care have access to an extensive range of networks and online resources that can be accessed through the online Member's Community. These services make it easy to meet and interact with people with similar challenges and responsibilities in other paediatric services.

CHA members are generous in sharing their expertise, ideas and lessons learnt through CHA networks. Everyone is motivated by the same objective: to improve the service and treatment received by children and their families requiring hospital care.



Events

CHA hosts meetings, webinars, and workshops both in person and online, that are dedicated to our members. The program for each meeting is designed in close consultation with the participants, focusing on providing opportunities to consider common challenges and share innovations. The opportunity to meet once a year face-to-face with peers lays a strong foundation for online and web conference networking throughout the year.



Networking Groups

Our Network Groups enable individuals to readily connect with colleagues and peers who share a passion for excellence in providing care to children in one or more areas. Our networks are dynamic, solution focused and typically multidisciplinary. Participants generously share expertise, ideas, examples of best practice, and challenges with one another. Our groups are open to all interested staff from member hospitals.

Check out all the Network groups we have to offer (page 16).



Online Member's Community

Members of CHA have secure access to our online Member's Community, where all of our members are able to post, view, and comment on content shared in our Networking Groups. Members also have the opportunity to post questions and have them answered by a community of dedicated healthcare professionals. The site also contains a powerful search engine, making it easier to find material relevant to your service or interest.





Networking to Share Innovation and Best Practice

Children's Healthcare Australasia has continued to grow as a vibrant and collaborative non-profit community of more than 95 children's hospitals and paediatric units across Australia and New Zealand, bringing together member health services to share ideas, innovations, and best practices. Through our web conferences, Insight Forums, and online resources, we have connected professionals across Australia.

Children's Healthcare Australasia Networks have explored a wide range of topics, from Models of Care such as Eating Disorder HiTH to Paediatric Pharmacy Shared Care Model, to projects on early identification, supported and enhanced care for priority populations, to management of dysregulated behaviours, and much more.

To ensure that knowledge-sharing extends beyond live events, Children's Healthcare Australasia has published presentations on the members' website, with consent from presenters. This means that even if you couldn't attend a session on the day, you can still access and learn from the insights shared by your peers. We are grateful for the contributions of our members in making these networks a valuable and supportive space. As we look ahead, Children's Healthcare Australasia remains committed to expanding opportunities for collaboration, supporting professional growth, and ensuring that shared innovations continue to drive improvements in Paediatric care.





CHA Networking Groups

CHA's Network groups enable you to connect with colleagues and peers who share a passion for excellence in healthcare around a given issue or area of responsibility. Our Network groups are dynamic, solution focused, and typically multidisciplinary. Participants in these networks generously share expertise, ideas, examples of best practice, and challenges with one another.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Paediatric Care



Paediatric Educators



Allied Health



Paediatric Emergency Care



Child & Adolescent
Mental Health



Paediatric Rehabilitation
Psychology



Children's Hospitals
Performance and
Efficiency



Paediatric Safety and
Quality



Clinical Ethics



Paediatric Units



Consumer Engagement
Leaders



Reflective Practice of
Procedural Holding



Directors of Nursing in
Paediatric Services



Rehabilitation Managers



Hospitals without walls



Medication Safety



NICU and Special Care
Nurseries



On average, CHA Network Groups facilitate 45+ web conferences with 4,280+ participants every year.

All staff of member services can join any of our Networking Groups in the Member's Community.



CHA Insight Forums

Medication Safety Face-to-Face

This annual meeting focuses on the ongoing importance of medication safety in children's healthcare, bringing together professionals from children's hospitals and paediatric units to collaborate on improving practices related to prescribing, dispensing, storage,

and administration of medications. The program covered a variety of topics, including medication safety challenges, service delivery models, paediatric medication IV compatibilities, and the evolving landscape of electronic medical records (EMR).

“ *The rapid-fire sessions were great and gave other participants the opportunity to share their organisation's challenges.*

Fantastic, well organised, inter-professional conference. I will highly recommend to colleagues. Thank you

”

Paediatric Units Insight Forum

The 2024 CHA Paediatric Units Insight Forum was a successful two-day event that brought together multidisciplinary professionals to share knowledge and strategies for improving paediatric healthcare. Attendees discussed innovative approaches to various challenges, such as managing dysregulated behaviours, reducing hospital admissions for eating disorders, and improving outpatient and shared care models.

The forum was highly praised by attendees for its organisation, networking opportunities, and practical takeaways. The event's collaborative spirit fostered learning and idea-sharing, leaving participants inspired to implement new strategies in their own settings.

“ *The CHA Conference was interesting, inspiring and Leanne and I were made to feel so very warmly welcome – a truly uplifting collegial experience and wonderful to see the effort, positivity and projects across Australia and New Zealand.*

”



CHA Series

Our Series, grouped in themes and often multidisciplinary in focus, are highly sought after and attended web conferences. These events further allow our community to connect and share innovations and challenges and feature topics and themes of broad and topical interest to our members.

Be Inspired



Leading Thinking Series

The Leading Thinkers Series provides an opportunity to hear from renowned experts from Australia, New Zealand, and globally on key issues or themes of interest to members, with webinars that are highly sought after for their innovative thought leadership, offering valuable support to teams and services. Participation is open to all members.



Improving Value in Healthcare

The Improving Value in Healthcare: Systems, Experience, and Outcome series, offers exclusive webinars that focus on innovations and changes to models of care. This series highlights how innovations enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of care, improve experiences for both providers and patients, and deliver meaningful health outcomes.



Sustainable Healthcare Series

Amid increasing evidence that global warming significantly impacts the health and well-being of communities, WCHA launched the Sustainable Healthcare Series to help member health services share knowledge, ideas, and strategies aimed at reducing their environmental impact.



Vulnerable Children Series

The CHA Vulnerable Children's Series, launched in 2021, provides a platform for CHA members to discuss and learn from experts about supporting vulnerable children in the community. These webinars are highly valued by members seeking to implement targeted interventions and address specific challenges related to vulnerable populations.





Collaborative Projects

CHA supports member services to work together, to share learning and to partner with children and their families, to optimise the health and wellbeing throughout their care journey. We work with our member services to identify priority areas and provide opportunities to work together, to share learning, expertise and to collaborate on topics of interest. There are many opportunities available to members to get involved in these projects.



Child Development Services Learning Health Network

CHA is working with Child Development Services (CDS) in Australia and New Zealand, to provide clinicians with networking opportunities to share expertise and data to improve the outcomes of young children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

Shared data has supported:

- services to understand the effectiveness and efficiency of their current models of care
- next steps in achieving better outcomes for children with ASD and their families.

These data informed reports are helping to map out the different ways in which Child Development Services are structured, the kinds of skill-mix and expertise they can offer to children and families, the access and referral pathways in place, the assessments conducted and subsequent therapies offered.

Shared data has provided more visibility to services to better ascertain similarities and differences, changes over time, and whether outcomes for children are improving.

“

I have been extremely interested in evidence-based practice and the management of patients with eating disorders... This [CHA web conference] has provided a platform for further discussions within my region on how we currently manage patients with this complex condition and how we can progress patient care and management in the future.

”

- **Joanne Clark**, Allied Health Coordinator, WA Country Health Service



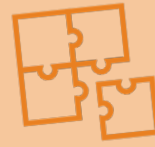


Eating Disorders Learning Health Network

CHA is working with both tertiary children’s services and paediatric units interested to inspire care and outcomes for children living with an eating disorder.

Participating members are being supported with networking opportunities to:

- share learning and data;
- understand which models of care are working well
- network and collaborate to work towards better outcomes for young people



Review and access related resources for collaborative projects:



children.wcha.asn.au/collaborate

Previous assignments included the development of a comparative model of care survey, enabling services to benchmark their processes, pathways, and service provision. This exercise enabled visibility of the current inpatient care models, meal support, and nutrition pathways between member services. Consequential deep dive discussions have supported change strategies to allow service improvement and subsequently better outcomes for young people with eating disorders and their families.



Paediatric Patient Reported Experience Measures (pPREMS)

CHA, in collaboration with Sydney Partnership for Health Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE) and the Starlight Children’s Foundation, is leading a body of work to develop a set of national Paediatric Patient Reported Experience Measures (pPREMs). PREMs allow health services to understand how care is experienced by children, young people, and families/carers, with the aim to improve services as a result of this consumer feedback.

Currently, there is no nationally available, free to use, PREM for children, validated for use in the Australian or New Zealand healthcare setting. There is broad agreement among participants that an Australian and New Zealand wide core set of PREM questions for children would be of value and would assist to improve the healthcare of children and young people.

The aim is to develop validated, age-specific sets of questions addressing core patient-and- family-centred care domains. These can either be standalone question sets or incorporated into larger surveys, addressing other domains of interest to an individual service. The PREM tools aim to be brief, including approximately 8 – 10 questions for two children’s age groups, 6-8 and 9-12 years old.

Completion of Stage 1:

Interviews with children and young people conducted to evaluate their hospital experiences, facilitated by the Starlight Children’s Foundation. Final data analysis and report written, indicating the themes of what matters to children and young people. Multi-round Delphi Process to identify the Domains and Items for the two age groups of the paediatric PREMs.

Commencement of Stage 2:

Throughout 2025, the Domains and Items will be tested and piloted for face validity, reliability and fidelity with children prior to national endorsement and implementation of the paediatric PREM tools.

CHA is so excited to be part of this great collaboration, moving forward to assist the voices of children to be heard, in supporting better healthcare experiences and outcomes. The data analysis and report writing of Stage 1 of this project was kindly sponsored by the ACSQHC.



Our Member's Community Website

Our Member's Community website has been designed with the user in mind. The clean, contemporary design of the website interface gives members the opportunity to explore all our amazing benefits and contribute to our community with ease. We've made significant changes to make it easier to discover and share the work we achieve together.

Become a member and visit online today!

It's easy to join a group!

Visit the Network Group's page and click the "Join Group" button. You can join as many groups as you like! They will be organised in your My Groups page, where you can browse recommended groups or leave a group at anytime. Our Network Groups are organised into search-friendly libraries.

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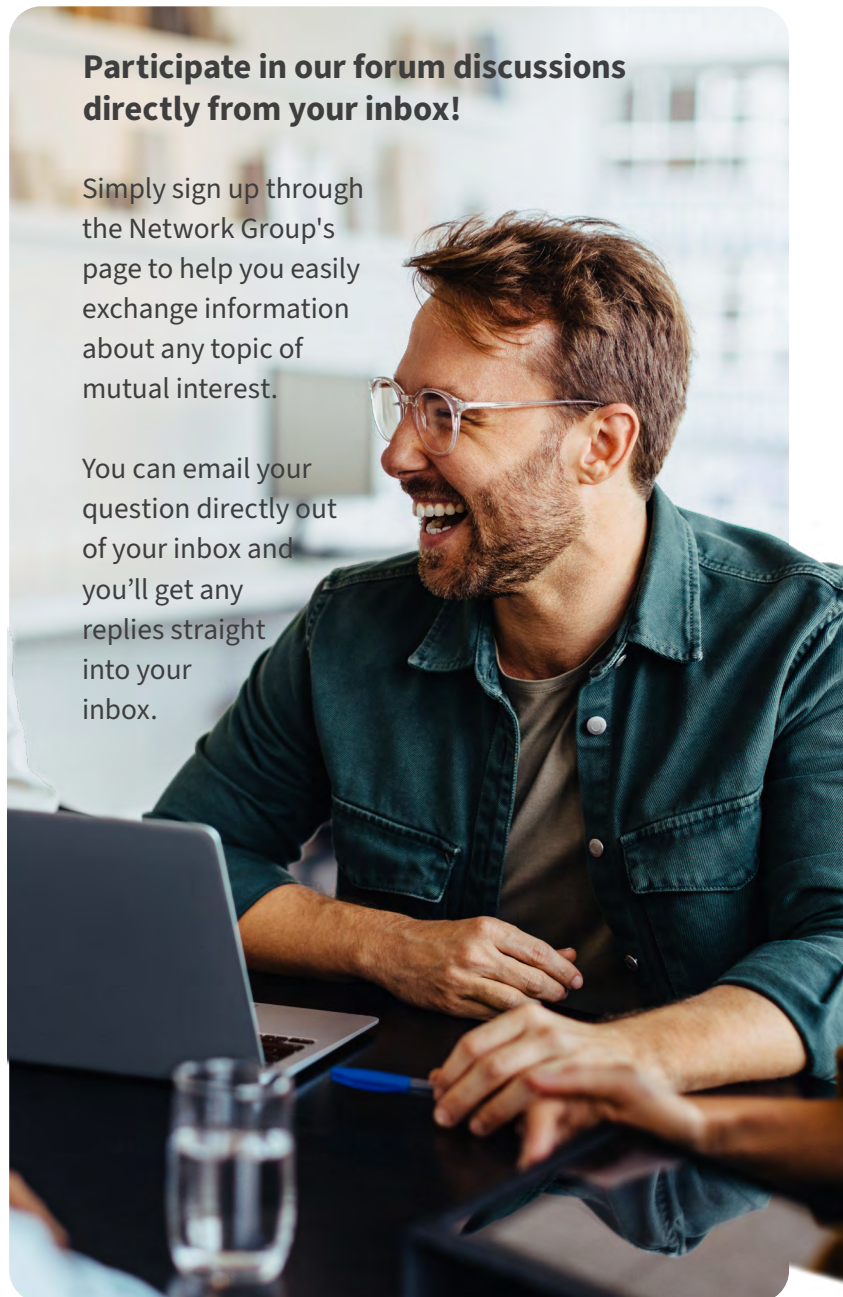
Easily keep up to date with what is happening in our community on our homepage news feed.

Never miss an upcoming event! Our news feed on the home page will keep you up to date.

Participate in our forum discussions directly from your inbox!

Simply sign up through the Network Group's page to help you easily exchange information about any topic of mutual interest.

You can email your question directly out of your inbox and you'll get any replies straight into your inbox.





Partnering with First Nations people

First nations people have called for a community-led, strengths-based approach, one that values their experience.

CHA is committed to supporting health services and professionals to recognise and improve the disparity in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Maori peoples of New Zealand, and pledge our ongoing support to the goal of achieving health equity.

Sustainable healthcare

A strategic priority for CHA is to advocate for a healthy sustainable future for children, families and the planet. To achieve this we work with our members to enable children's healthcare services to share practical innovations and strategies related to renewable energy, efficient design, sustainable supplies, and recycling waste.

Gender affirming services for children and young people

CHA's vision is for safe, high quality and equitable healthcare for all children and young people, including our transgender and gender diverse communities.

CHA Advocacy

CHA plays an active role in advocating on behalf of children's hospitals and paediatric services on national policies and projects affecting children's healthcare. We develop submissions in consultation with our members on issues of common interest or concern.

In the past 12 months our advocacy activities have included the following submissions:

- A submission to the ACSQHC and Department of Health (Commonwealth) on the need to include child weights on PBS scripts
- Comment to the Royal Commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse on records & record keeping practices
- Presence at a stakeholder consultation session and a submission on the National Mental Health Plan
- Submission and representation to the Senate Inquiry into the accessibility of diagnostic imaging services across Australia
- Comment on the NSW Paediatric Service Capability Framework and Companion Toolkit
- Comment on the QLD State-wide Services Plan
- Comment on the ACSQHC Draft Pharmacy Dispensing Labeling Standard
- Circulation of a request for representatives to join the National Collaborative Network for Child Health Informatics



Your Next Steps

1

Contact the CHA Office

Contact the CHA office to discuss our member services and what being a CHA member could mean for your hospital or health service. You can phone, email or visit our website.

2

Share this information with your staff

See what your staff think! Some of your staff will jump at the networking opportunities, others will be interested in the benchmarking data, while more will thank you for access to our events.

3

Apply for Membership

Now that you know what you are missing, don't delay! We have included an application form with this booklet so you can start reaping the rewards of CHA membership as soon as possible. If you would like an electronic version of this form, simply email us at connect@wcha.asn.au and we will send you an electronic copy.





How to Join and Pricing

1. Complete the Application Form

This provides us with information about your service, such as the number of paediatric separations, number of staff, level/type of facility and key personnel and contacts with the organisation.

2. Invoice for Membership

Once your application is received you will receive an invoice for membership. Our membership fees are based on the annual number of paediatric separations that the facility supported for the previous financial year (pricing in table to the left).

3. Engagement in Member Services

Our dedicated team will make contact with your staff to begin engagement with our benchmarking services, networking opportunities, events, education and more!

New members receive a 10% discount for the first year of membership!

CHA PRICING

Membership Category		# Annual Paed Seps (under 19 yrs old)	2025-26 Fee \$ (excl GST)
Associate		-	954
Small	1	<500	1,467
	2	501 - 1,000	2,921
	3	1,001 - 2,000	4,316
	4	2,001 - 3,000	6,450
	5	3,001 - 4,000	8,573
Medium	1	4,001 - 5,000	11,457
	2	5,001 - 6,000	14,295
	3	6,001 - 7,000	17,179
	4	7,001 - 8,000	21,146
	5	8,001 - 10,000	22,880
Large	1	10,000 - 15,000	25,754
	2	15,001 - 20,000	31,332
	3	20,001 - 30,000	37,164
	4	30,001 - 40,000	42,876
	5	>40,000	57,159

**New members get a discount of 10% in the year they join.*

**Members that have joint financial membership for both CHA and WHA get a 5% discount on their fee for both organisations every year.*

Hospitals managed under a Local Health Network or District Health Board may aggregate their births and join as a member under the appropriate Membership Category. This makes membership very affordable for even very small paediatric services.



Application to Join CHA

Thank you for your interest in CHA. Please complete this form and return to us at:

 connect@wcha.asn.au

 PO Box 194 Mitchell ACT 2911

Name of Local Health Network or District	
Name(s) of hospitals to be included in CHA Membership	Hospital 1: Hospital 2: Hospital 3:
Total Number of Paed Seps p.a. NB: please indicate number of Paed Seps p.a. at each hospital in your LHN/ LHD that will be covered by this membership. These figures will be verified against data submitted & invoices adjusted as appropriate	Hospital 1: Hospital 2: Hospital 3:
Principal Representative Please identify the person willing to become the CHA Principal Representative for your health service. This person will have voting rights for your service at CHA AGMs, and be the key contact CHA will approach for advice about engaging with your health service.	Name: Position: Email: Phone:
Alternative Principal Representative This person will only be contacted in the event that the Principal Representative is away/unavailable.	Name: Position: Email: Phone:
Briefly describe your service: CHA is interested to know the range of services offered by your service. Please tick and complete relevant services your hospital/health service provides.	Paed Ward (No. beds: _____) Paed ED (Area: _____) Paed Surgery Special Care Nursery (No. cots: _____)
Membership Category Please see membership categories (page 29)	I authorise an invoice to be sent to my hospital/LHN for CHA Membership in the appropriate membership category for the number of paediatric separations indicated above.
Person applying for membership on be-half of the hospital/health service Only complete if different from the Principal Representative	Name: Position: Email: Phone:
Invoice Contact If different from above	Name: Email:


- I confirm I am authorised to request membership on behalf of my hospital/ health service
- The hospital understands that membership is considered ongoing, cancellation for a financial year requires 3 months advance written notice
- I confirm that on membership sign up membership fees become payable within 30 days

Signature:


Date:



Connect with us

 +61(02)6185 0325

 connect@wcha.asn.au

 Unit 9/25-35 Buckland St,
Mitchell, ACT 2911, Australia

 children.wcha.asn.au

Did you know?

There is **no limit, or extra cost** for any of your staff to create an account on our online Member's Community.



Watch topical presentations



Join Network Groups



Connect with children's healthcare peers

We are a registered Charity Organisation ABN: 36006996345.