

DHAC locations

There are DHACs across regional Western Australia:

Great Southern

- Lower Great Southern
- Central Great Southern

Wheatbelt

- Eastern Wheatbelt
- Western Wheatbelt
- Southern Wheatbelt

Midwest Murchison

- Geraldton
- Midwest
- Gascoyne

Goldfields South East

- Goldfields
- South East

Pilbara Gascoyne

- Pilbara West
- Pilbara East
- Pilbara Inland

Kimberley

- Broome and communities
- Derby and communities
- East Kimberley (Kununurra, Wyndham, Halls Creek)

South West

- Leschenault/Wellington
- Bunbury
- Naturaliste/Leeuwin
- Blackwood
- Warren

How do I become a member?

You can apply to become a member at any time.

Applications are assessed by the relevant WACHS Regional Office and members are appointed by the WACHS Chief Executive with delegation from the Minister for Health.

Orientation and training is provided to support you in your new role as a DHAC member.

Want to find out more?

For advice on how to apply, contact the WACHS Regional or District Office in your area, or email WACHSConsumerEngagement@health.wa.gov.au

You can also access further information and DHAC application forms on the WACHS website: www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/dhacs

Health Consumers' Council

If you're nominating as a community member, the Health Consumers' Council is available to assist you to complete your application. They'll also provide information on health consumer issues, rights and responsibilities and support you in your role as a consumer representative.

Tel: 1800 620 780 (free call) website: www.hconc.org.au

To provide feedback on this publication email wachscomms@health.wa.gov.au. Alternative formats can be provided on request. © WA Country Health Service.

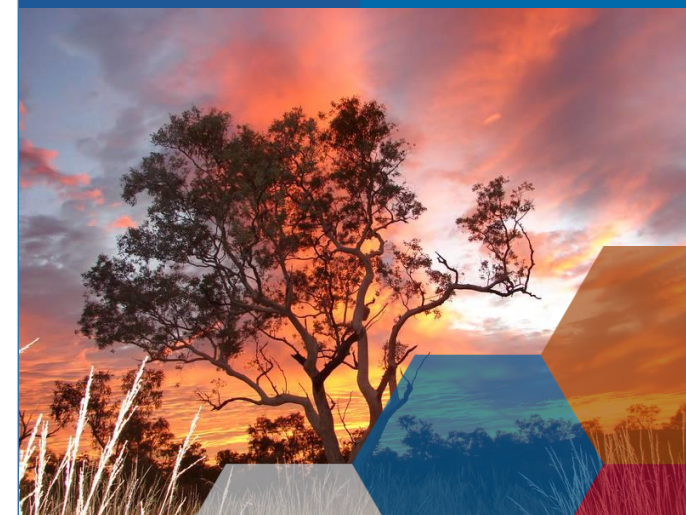
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Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

Partner with us
and have a say
about health issues
in your area

Apply for membership to a
District Health Advisory Council



What is a District Health Advisory Council (DHAC)?

A District Health Advisory Council (DHAC) is a group of people, appointed by the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Chief Executive on behalf of the Minister for Health, who actively work together with WACHS to improve and inform health service planning, access, safety and quality.

The Advisory Councils are made up of community members and health service/agency representatives and aim to reflect a cross-section of community health issues.

How do DHACs work?

DHACs meet regularly to discuss district and local health issues and share ideas for improving health services. They represent the views of the community, consumers and carers in their district and seek to increase their community's understanding of health issues.

DHACs take an active role in:

- improving the consumer experience and voice in health services
- advising WACHS and WACHS Board on issues that are important to DHAC communities
- building connections between DHACs, consumers, WACHS and other community/health groups.

At the District and Local level

There are a variety of local community groups and people with an interest in health issues such as mental health, youth health, cancer support groups, Aboriginal health, women's health and people living with chronic conditions.

DHACs seek the input and views of these local groups and community members and work with the local health service to ensure their views are considered in the planning, delivery and evaluation of health care.

At the State level

DHACs have regular opportunities to meet with and report to the WACHS Board, providing vital information on district health issues and priorities to inform WACHS strategy and direction.

The DHAC Chairpersons Network also meets annually to provide State-wide information on country health issues and priorities to the Minister for Health, WACHS Chief Executive and other senior health staff.

What do DHAC members do?

It is the role of **consumer or community members** to:

- Talk with health service consumers, carers, and community members and groups about important health issues.
- Present the views and opinions of consumers, carers and community members to the WACHS Board.
- Inform local health service planning and strategic directions, from the consumer and community perspective.
- Offer creative ideas about improving the health of the community with a focus on service safety, quality, access and health gain.
- Become familiar with WACHS strategic priorities in order to provide informed comment and share information with consumers and the community.

It is the role of **health service or agency representatives** to:

- share knowledge, expertise and up-to-date information on health services;
- listen and demonstrate that the views of consumers and the community have been considered in service development and planning.

Why get involved?

As an Advisory Council member you have a unique opportunity to contribute ideas about the delivery of health services in your area to achieve better access and safe services.

If you have an interest in a specific area such as youth, Aboriginal health, aged care, mental health or health consumer advocacy, Advisory Council membership enables you to make a positive contribution to your area of interest.

DHAC membership candidates would be expected to:

- attend regular meetings
- respect diversity and differing opinions
- see beyond his/her own personal experience
- speak comfortably in a group
- work as part of a team to find solutions
- have passion for enhancing the health care experience for all.

