

Introduction

WA Health System

WACHS is the largest country health system in Australia and one of the biggest in the world, providing health services to a 531,000 people, including over 57,000 Aboriginal people, over a 2.5 million square kilometer area.

Metropolitan Services

WA Health is divided into the WA Country Health Service and four Health Service Providers (HSPs) covering the Perth metropolitan area - three Adult services and a specialist Child and Adolescent service:

- North Metropolitan Health Service (NMHS)
- South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS)
- East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS)
- Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS)

WA Country Health Service (WACHS)

WACHS is a network of health facilities across 7 regions including regional hospitals, district hospitals, nursing posts and community health centers. We provide all health services outside Perth, across an area of more than 2.5 million square kilometres, from Kalumburu in the Kimberley to Albany in the Great Southern.

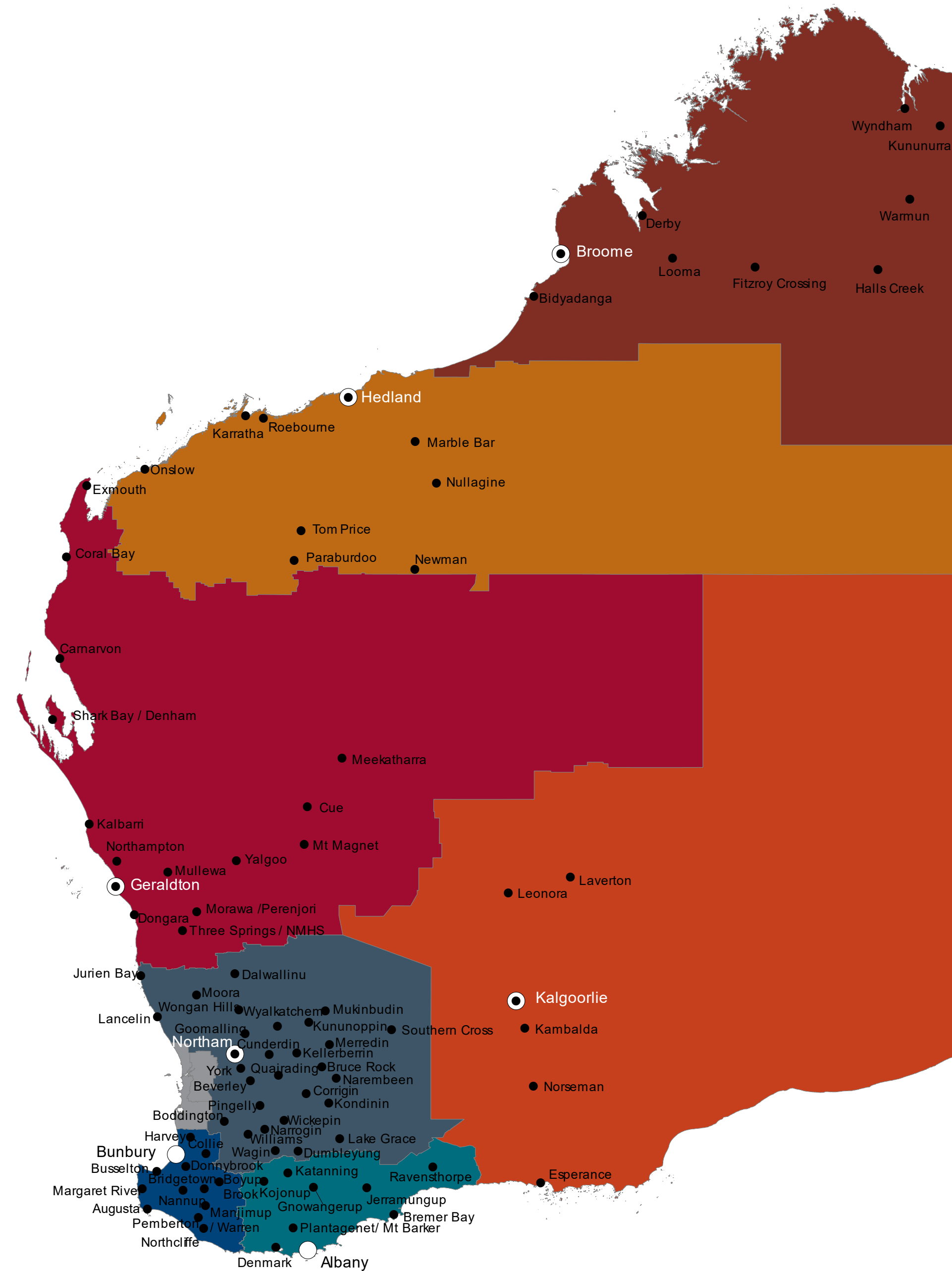
WACHS Services

- Emergency and hospital services
- Population, public and primary healthcare
- Aboriginal health services
- Mental health services
- Drug and alcohol services
- Child, community and school healthcare
- Telehealth services
- Residential and community aged care services

Our Regions

WACHS Regions & Towns

- Kimberley** (MM 6-7, 423,517 km²)
 Towns: Broome, Kununurra, Derby, Halls Creek & Fitzroy Crossing
 Population: 38,801 (approximately half identify as Aboriginal, more than 30 language groups in over 200 indigenous communities)
- Pilbara** (MM 6-7, 507,896 km²)
 Towns: Karratha, Port Hedland, Newman & Tom Price
 Population: 59,552 (15% identify as Aboriginal) + FIFO population.
- Goldfields** (MM 6-7, 771,276 km²)
 Towns: Kalgoorlie, Leonora, Laverton, Norseman & Esperance
 Population: 55,000 (10% identify as Aboriginal) + FIFO population
- Midwest** (MM 3-7, 600,000 km²)
 Towns: Geraldton, Dongara, Meekatharra, Carnarvon & Exmouth
 Population: 63,650 (10% identify as Aboriginal)
- Wheatbelt** (MM 4-7, 154,862 km²)
 Towns: Northam, Narrogin, Merredin, Moora & Jurien Bay
 Population: 76,394 (6% identify as Aboriginal)
- South West** (MM 2-6, 23,000 km²)
 Towns: Bunbury, Collie, Busselton, Manjimup & Margaret River
 Population: 177,300 (2.3% identify as Aboriginal)
- Great Southern** (MM 3-7, 39,007 km²)
 Towns: Albany, Katanning, Denmark, Kojonup & Gnowangerup
 Population: 60,000 (3.6% identify as Aboriginal)





Our Regions

Great Southern

The Great Southern region is located on the south coast of Western Australia, adjoining the Southern Ocean, where the coast extends for approximately 250 km.

The total land area is 39,007 sq km (including islands), representing approximately 1.5 per cent of the State's total area. The regional population is approximately 60,000 of which 1,400 are under 17 years. The historic port town of Albany, which is the State's oldest European settlement, has one of the best natural anchorages in the Southern Hemisphere and is the region's administrative centre.

The region's economy is largely based on agriculture, in particular, wheat, barley, canola, livestock and wool, and the Great Southern account for 13% of Western Australia's overall agricultural output. In addition to agriculture, the local economy is well supported by retail, manufacturing, construction, tourism, viticulture, timber, mining and fishing industries.

- City of Albany
- Shire of Broomehill - Tambellup
- Shire of Cranbrook
- Shire of Denmark
- Shire of Gnowangerup
- Shire of Jerramungup
- Shire of Katanning
- Shire of Kent
- Shire of Kojonup
- Shire of Plantagenet
- Shire of Ravensthorpe
- Shire of Woodanilling

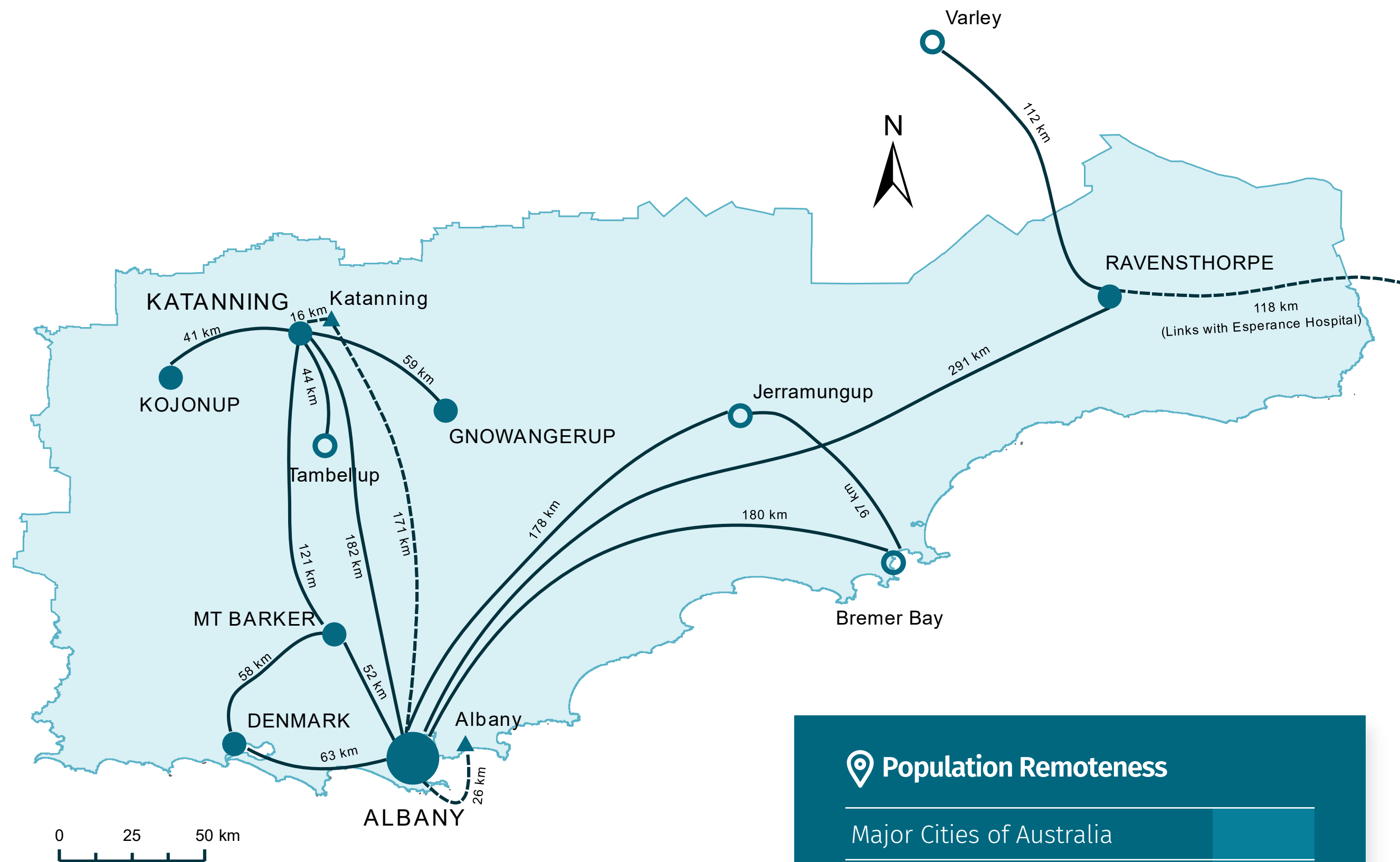
Great Southern Demographics

Albany is the region's administrative centre and home to around 57% of the region's population. The Great Southern region had a population of 62,700 in 2014 (representing 2.4% of the State's population). By 2025, the population is expected to reach almost 72,000 persons. However, although the population will increase, the percentage of the State's population residing in the Great Southern will decrease to 2.3%.

Aboriginal Population

The Aboriginal population in the Great Southern was approximately 2,200 people in 2011, which represented 2.9% of the total Aboriginal population of Western Australia. This is expected to grow to 3,500 by 2025, with the percentage remaining constant at 2.9%.

Major centres	Population	Distance from Perth
Albany	37,407	409 km
Katanning	4,197	295 km
Denmark	5,964	414 km
Kojonup	2,003	255 km
Gnowangerup	1,236	256 km
Mt Barker (Plantagenet)	5,142	359 km
Ravensthorpe	1,785	526 km



Population Remoteness

Major Cities of Australia	
Inner Regional Australia	
Outer Regional Australia	92%
Remote Australia	5%
Very Remote Australia	3%



Great Southern Living in the Great Southern

Services & Facilities

You will find a range of every day services and facilities throughout the Great Southern region, including banks, ATMs, libraries, business centres/telecentres, post offices, shopping (food, grocery and other), hardware stores, police stations, butchers, bakers, cafes, service stations, pubs/taverns, takeaways, newsagents, churches, pharmacies and restaurants.

Schooling

The Great Southern region provides a range of government and non-government schooling options for primary, secondary and tertiary education. There are 45 schools providing primary and secondary education in the region, including 30 primary schools and 15 high schools.

The region also provides higher education options through apprenticeships, TAFE and university facilities, including a University of Western Australia (UWA) and Rural Clinical School of WA campus located in Albany. Curtin University of Technology also delivers select courses in primary and secondary education in Albany.

Accommodation

The Great Southern offers a range of housing and rental options for those living in the region, with more than half of the population living in the City of Albany.

The average house prices in Albany is \$605,000 and average rent per week is \$360 (based on data from Realestate.com.au Sept 2021)

Regional Development & Employment





Great Southern Sports & Recreation

The region offers access to two world-class trails – the Bibbulmun Track and the Munda Biddi Train – which can easily be accessed by walkers and off-road cyclists for day visits or extended journeys stretching all the way to Perth.

Other recreational pursuits such as arts and crafts, dance, music, theatre and performing arts are also very well supported in the region. The Great Southern is well-equipped with sporting facilities, with most towns in the region having their own sports centres and swimming pools.

There are a number of clubs throughout the region, representing a range of recreational activities including hockey, football, cricket, netball, basketball, swimming, golf, athletics, lawn bowls, equestrian, horse racing, pony clubs, cycling, running, roller-derby, sport shooting, soccer, skateboarding, BMX, tennis, motorsports and martial arts.

Sport in the region is supported by the Great Southern Sports House, which provides support to sport and recreation organisations in the delivery of services to those living in the Great Southern.

Climate



In the region's main population centre of Albany, average temperatures range between 15°C and 23°C in summer (December to February) and between 8°C and 16°C in winter (June to August). Annual rainfall throughout the region averages around 930mm per year, with almost all of the yearly rains falling between the months of May and September.

The Great Southern region enjoys a milder climate than much of the rest of Western Australia. The coastal part of the region has a Mediterranean climate characterised by dry summers and wet winters, while the north and eastern parts of the region considered to be semi-arid with hot and dry conditions.



Great Southern Health Services

Health Services in the Great Southern region are based two health districts – Central Great Southern and Lower Great Southern – comprised of 7 hospitals that are supported by a range of public and private primary health care services, general practitioners and community-based health services.

The Albany Health Campus is the major medical centre for the region and is a Regional Resource Centre under the WA Health Clinical Services Framework. A range of regional services are co-ordinated from Albany to support the Integrated District Health Service in Katanning and smaller hospitals, multi-purpose services and nursing posts throughout the region.

The region is also home to the Great Southern Aboriginal Health Service, based in Albany, that provides visiting services to smaller communities across the region.

The Great Southern is also an important training ground for young doctors and nurses, with medical students from The Rural Clinical School of WA, receiving education and training through the UWA Campus in Albany as part of their studies.

Health Facilities

Hospitals	7
Nursing Posts & Health Centres	3
General Practices	43
Aboriginal Medical Services	1

Hospitals & Beds

Regional Hospitals

Albany Hospital	137
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District Hospitals

Katanning Hospital	30
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Small Community Hospitals

Denmark Hospital	24
Gnowangerup Hospital	13
Kojonup Hospital	13
Plantagenet Hospital	50
Ravensthorpe Hospital	8



Great Southern Recent Health Infrastructure



Albany Health Campus 2016 - \$170.4 million

Bigger ED, more mental health beds, expanded renal dialysis capability, expanded cancer services, a new surgical centre and upgraded obstetric and birthing suites.



Albany Step-Up/Step-Down 2018 - \$20 million

A 6-bed low acuity community step-up/step-down service providing additional support to those discharged from inpatient units or those who do not need admission but need increased support.



Katanning Health Service 2019 - \$32 million

A new state-of-the-art ED, a refurbished surgical services unit and new outpatient and primary care facility and a new medical imaging department.

Great Southern Mental Health Services

WACHS Great Southern Mental Health Service (GSMHS) is a specialist service that provides comprehensive acute inpatient and community care to mental health clients in the Great Southern.

The GSMHS has multi-disciplinary teams who provide high quality mental health care. The teams located in Albany and Katanning provide outreach services to surrounding areas. The region is split into the Lower Great Southern (LGS) and Central Great Southern (CGS).

The services has the following teams:

- Adult Mental Health – Assessment and Treatment Team (Regional)
- Albany and Katanning Community Treatment Team
- Older Adult Mental Health Regional Team
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Regional Team
- Acute Inpatient Unit
- Consultation Liaison Team at Albany Health Campus

We provide teaching to medical students at the Albany Rural Clinical School site, in addition to teaching/training for JMOs, registrars with RANZCP, Consultants preferred who are accredited (or willing to become accredited) for RANZCP supervision

Inpatient Mental Health

Albany Mental Health Unit

High Acuity Beds	4
Low Acuity Beds	12
Consultant Psychiatrist FTE	1
Registrars/SMP FTE	3.5
Interns/Resident FTE	2

Community Mental Health

Great Southern Mental Health Service

Main clinics located in Albany and Katanning

Consultant Psychiatrist FTE	4
Registrars/SMP FTE	6
Interns/Resident FTE	0
Nursing Staff FTE	44.8
Allied Health FTE	29.1