



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.

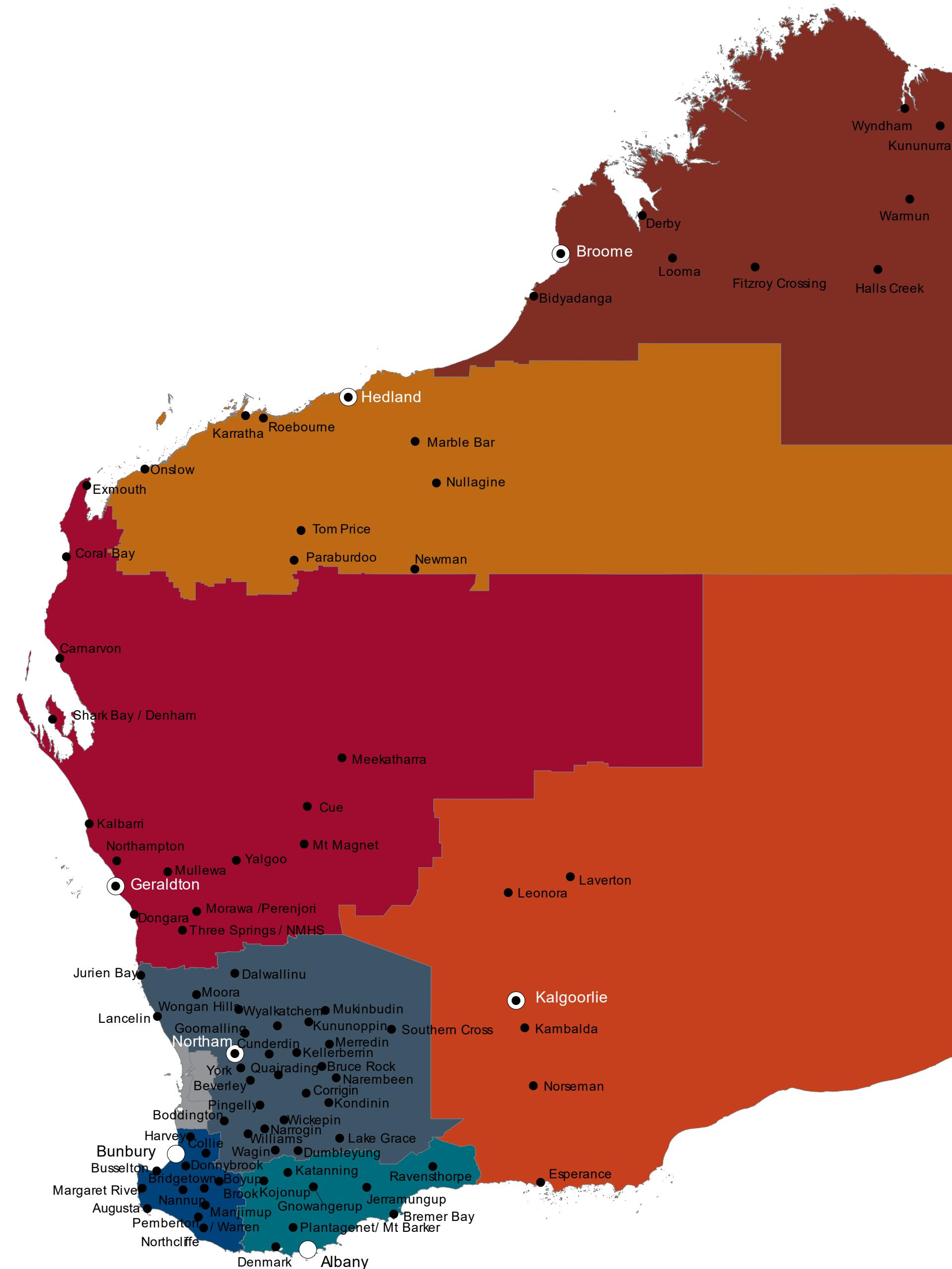
WACHS Services

- 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

Pilbara

Located in the north of Western Australia, the Pilbara region is bordered by the Indian Ocean to the west and extends along the Great Sandy Desert to the Northern Territory border on the east.

With an area covering 507,896 square kilometers, the Pilbara region accounts for 20% of the state's land mass and is twice the size of Victoria, five times the size of Tasmania and roughly the combined land area of the US states of California and Indiana.

The Pilbara region is home to some of Earth's oldest rock formations and its landscape includes coastal plains and mountain ranges with cliffs and gorges. It is a globally significant mining and energy region, boasting a wealth of resources, dynamic communities, rich Aboriginal culture and stunning natural landscapes.

The Pilbara is known for its petroleum, natural gas and iron ore deposits, which contribute significantly to the Western Australian economy and have resulted in the Pilbara being recognised as a region of global significance. Other industries contributing to the economy of the region include pastoral activities, fishing and tourism.

Local Government Areas

- Shire of Ashburton
- Shire of East Pilbara
- City of Karratha
- Town of Port Hedland

Pilbara Demographics

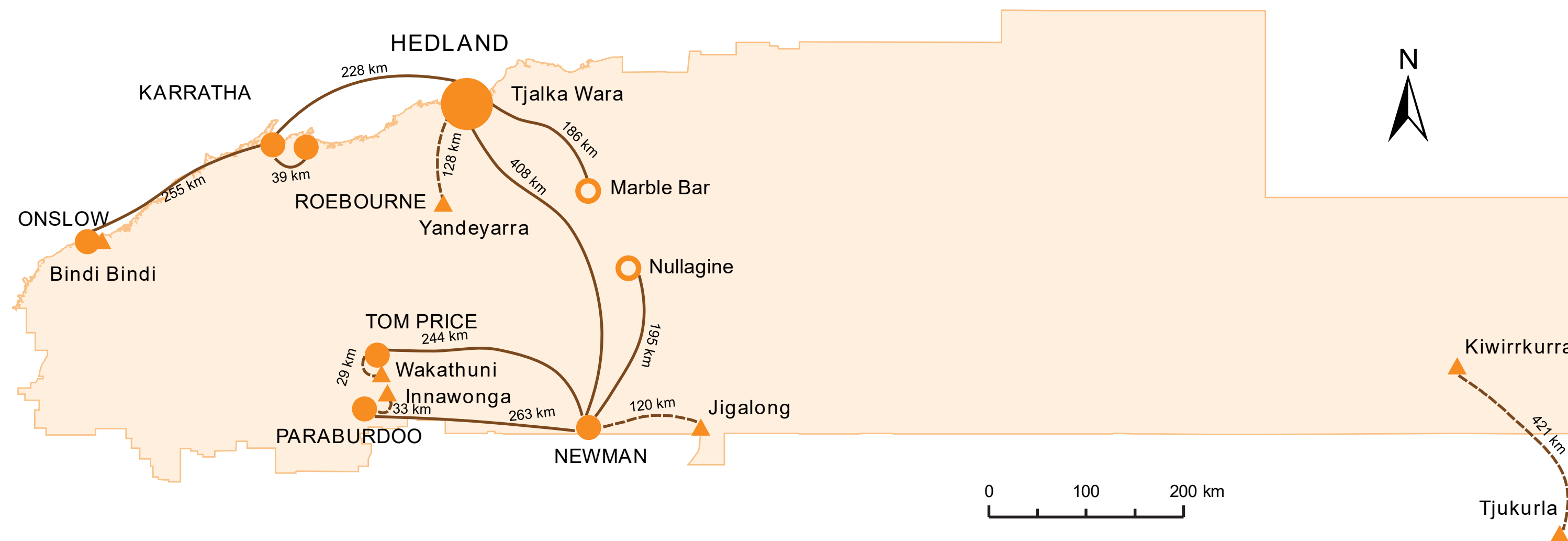
The Pilbara region had a population of 62,000 in 2014 (representing 2.4% of the State's population). The region has a rich cultural history and approximately 15% of the population comprises of those identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. The Pilbara also has a large transient population, which many people working in the region on a fly-in/fly-out basis.

By 2025, the population is expected to reach 66,000 persons. However, although the population will increase, the percentage of the State's population residing in the Pilbara will decrease to 2.1%. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, between 2013 and 2014 Karratha had one of the largest population growth rates in the State of 4.0% (or 750 people).

Aboriginal Population

The Aboriginal population in the Pilbara totaled almost 8,000 persons in 2011, which represented 10.4% of the total Aboriginal population in Western Australia. This is expected to grow to 12,000 persons by 2025. However, although the population will increase, the percentage of the State's Aboriginal population residing in the Pilbara will fall slightly to 10.1%.

Major centres	Population	Distance from Perth
Karratha	22,172	1538 km
Port Hedland	15,049	1702 km
Ashburton	3262	1462 km (to Tom Price)
East Pilbara	10,952	



Population Remoteness

Major Cities of Australia	
Inner Regional Australia	
Outer Regional Australia	
Remote Australia	36%
Very Remote Australia	64%



Pilbara Living in the Pilbara

Services & Facilities

You will find a range of every day services and facilities throughout the Pilbara 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. Most of these are located in the region's main town centres of Port Hedland and Karratha.

Accommodation

The Pilbara offers a range of housing and rental options for those living in the region, with most people residing in the major settlements of Port Hedland, Karratha and Newman.

The median house price for the Port Hedland is \$645,000, with the overall median weekly rental costing \$875 per week. The median house price for the Karratha is \$494,250, with the overall median weekly rental costing \$280 per week. (Source: REIWA; 2021)

There is also a range of short-term accommodation options available throughout the Pilbara including caravan parks, camping grounds, wilderness lodges, hotels, motels, self-contained accommodation, chalets, cabins, cattle and pastoral station lodgings, and luxury resorts. For more information, click [here](#).

Schooling

The Pilbara region provides a range of government and non-government schooling options for primary, secondary and tertiary education.

Regional Development & Employment





Pilbara Sports & Recreation

There is a wide range of sporting and recreational activities available in the Pilbara, with most activities taking place in the major regional town centres of Karratha and Port Hedland. The climatic conditions of the Pilbara, combined with the idyllic seasons of winter and spring, ensure a diverse range of sport and recreational interests are available all year round. Popular outdoor recreation activities include fishing, camping, four-wheel driving and boating. There are a number of clubs throughout the region, representing a range of recreational activities including football, cricket, rugby, swimming, athletics, lawn bowls, golf, horse racing and speedway.

The Pilbara region hosts a number of events throughout the year, including twilight movie events; golf tournaments; triathlons and running events; horse races; community and night markets; food, fashion, and music festivals; art exhibitions; opera under the stars; and cultural festivals.

The region houses some of the world's most ancient natural landscapes and has over 700 historic indigenous archaeological sites and 10,000 rock engravings, many of which date back some 30,000 years. The Pilbara's three national parks – Millstream-Chichester, Karlamilyi and Karijini – offer an abundance of rugged gorges, secluded waterfalls and isolated rivers and billabongs, while its coastal plain is home to hundreds of islands with dazzling white beaches and untouched coral gardens in the National Heritage-listed Dampier Archipelago and the Montebello and Mackerel Islands.

Climate



The Pilbara climate is arid and tropical and the region experiences high temperatures and low, irregular rainfall. During the summer and early autumn (December to March), maximum temperatures exceed 32°C almost daily and it is not uncommon for the region to experience temperatures above 45°C.

During the winter months (June to August), the average temperature for the region is around 20°C, with temperatures rarely dropping below 10°C during this period.

The Pilbara's annual average rainfall ranges between 250mm in the south and west of the region to 300-350mm in the north-east, with some elevated areas in the Hamersley Ranges averaging more than 500mm. Much of the rainfall in the area comes from tropical cyclone activity, with most rainfall received during summer and autumn.



Pilbara Health Services

The Pilbara region incorporates two Health Districts – West and East Pilbara – with the majority of the region’s population residing in the West.

There is a range of different health services available throughout the Pilbara region, most of which are part of the public health system. Integrated District Health Services support the smaller hospitals in the region to deliver care and when required, transfer patients to the more specialised, larger hospitals in Newman, South Hedland and Karratha or metropolitan tertiary hospitals.

The region’s health services are supported by a range of community-based services (including population health and mental health services), allied health services and private general practices. The majority of these are located in the region’s main town centres.

The region is also home to a number of Aboriginal Medical Services that are based in Port Hedland, Roebourne and Newman and provide visiting services to smaller communities across the region.

Health Facilities

Hospitals	7
Nursing Posts & Health Centres	2
General Practices	40
Aboriginal Medical Services	3

Hospitals & Beds

Regional Hospitals

Hedland Hospital	71
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District Hospitals

Karratha Health Campus	47
Newman Hospital	10

Small Community Hospitals

Onslow Health Service	6
Paraburdoo Hospital	4
Roebourne Hospital	10
Tom Price Hospital	8



Pilbara Health Infrastructure

Recent Projects



Hedland Health Campus 2010 - \$138 million

24-hour ED, new inpatient beds, obstetrics and paediatrics wards, a HDU, day surgery, renal dialysis, medical imaging and consultation facilities for mental health, drug and alcohol services.



Karratha Health Campus 2018 - \$173 million

New 40-bed facility with expanded ED, new CT scanner, surgical ward, maternity wing and delivery suites, expanded facilities for outpatients, child health and medical imaging.



Onslow Health Service 2018 - \$41.8 million

Expanded ED with three acute care bays, and one resuscitation bay; a six-bed inpatient unit; a medical imaging room; a dental clinic and outpatient centre including community mental health.

Future Project



Newman Health Service 2023 - \$61.4 million

Redevelopment project will include twelve inpatient beds, six ED bays and dedicated rooms for outpatient consults, therapy, medical imaging and pathology.

Pilbara Mental Health Services

Pilbara Mental Health & Drug Service (PMHDS) is a community Mental Health Service, outreaching to other towns and communities, with inreach as a CL service to our regional hospitals (ED/wards). Multi-disciplinary case managers function primarily in Access (Triage), case management and liaison role. We ensure warm referrals and collaboration with other services, and generally focus on the client cohort with serious mental illness, complexity and significant risks/acuity.

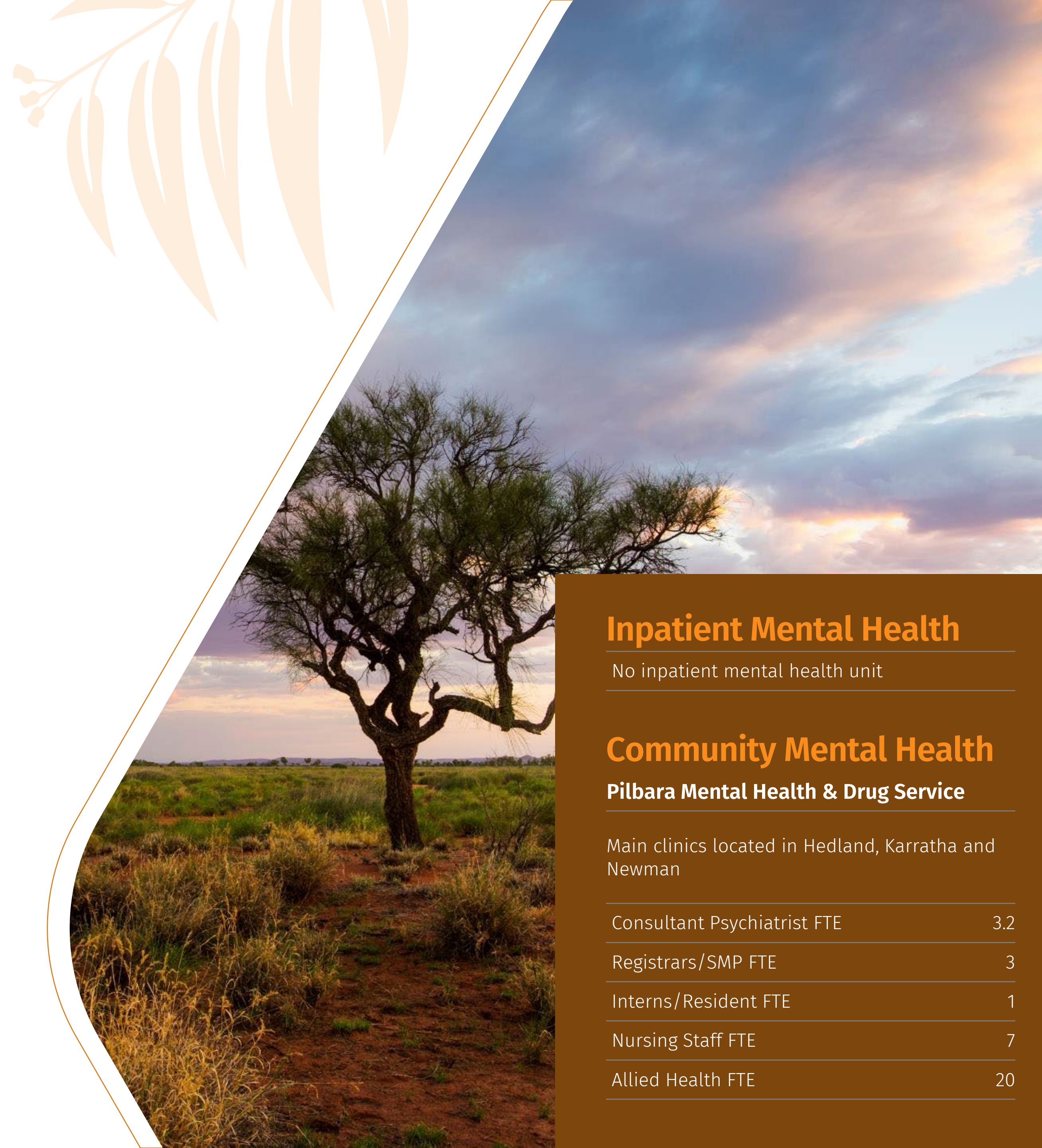
PMHDS prioritises cultural governance and safety throughout our work, supported by our team of Aboriginal Mental Health Workers (AMHWs) through the State-wide Specialist Aboriginal Mental Health Service (SSAMHS). There is a strong clinical governance focus.

Clients are allocated to Streams according to these age groups, and all represented at each site:

- CAMHS <18yo – except Newman is <16yo
- Youth 18-24yo – except Newman is 16-24yo due to funding differences
- Adult 25+

The Service is divided into three community teams. These are divided into:

- **Pilbara West** – Adult/Youth – for Karratha, Roebourne, Wickham, Point Sampson, Pannawonica and Onslow. Situated on the Karratha Health Campus.
- **Pilbara East** – Adult/Youth – for Hedland, Marble Bar, Nullagine, Newman, Tom Price, Paraburdoo and Western Desert. Situated as Head Office in Hedland on the Hedland Health Campus, and small satellite clinic at Newman.
- **CAMHS** - <18yo – servicing the entire region with main Clinic at Karratha, smaller clinics at Hedland and Newman, and outreach to the Inland Pilbara, and other sites as needed.



Inpatient Mental Health

No inpatient mental health unit

Community Mental Health

Pilbara Mental Health & Drug Service

Main clinics located in Hedland, Karratha and Newman

Consultant Psychiatrist FTE	3.2
Registrars/SMP FTE	3
Interns/Resident FTE	1
Nursing Staff FTE	7
Allied Health FTE	20