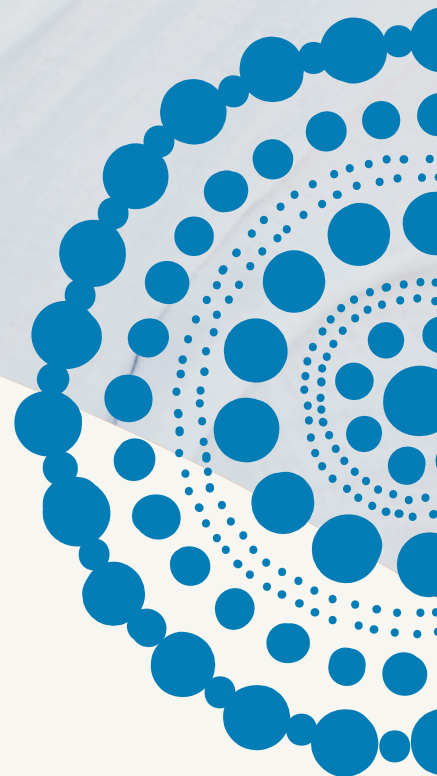
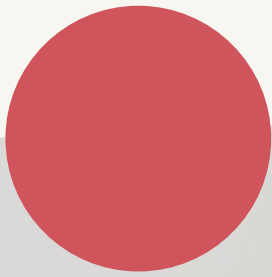




**Carers WA**



## **Representing Carers in Regional and Remote Western Australia**

Broome & the Kimberley Region  
**October 2023**

## About Carers WA

Carers WA is the peak body representing the needs and interests of carers in Western Australia and is part of a national network of Carers Associations. Carers provide unpaid care and support to family members and friends with disability, mental ill health, long term health conditions (including a chronic condition or terminal illness), have an alcohol or drug dependency, or who are frail aged. The person they care for may be a parent, partner, sibling, child, relative, friend or neighbour.

Caring is a significant form of unpaid work in the community and is integral to the maintenance of our aged, disability, health, mental health, and palliative care systems.

Some important facts about carers include:

- There are currently 2.65 million unpaid carers in Australia.
- There are more than 320,000 families and friends in a caring role in Western Australia.
- The replacement value of unpaid care, according to a report undertaken by Deloitte, Access Economics, "The economic value of unpaid care in Australia in 2020" is estimated at \$77.9 billion per annum.

### Enquiries

#### Carers WA

182 Lord Street

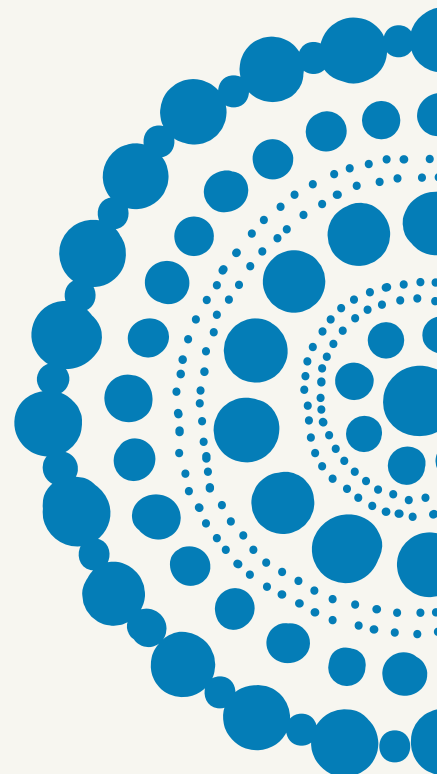
PERTH WA 60000

**Phone:** 1300 227 377

**Email:** [info@carerswa.asn.au](mailto:info@carerswa.asn.au)

### Acknowledgement of Country

Carers WA acknowledges the Wadjuk Noongar Nation's lands, water, customs, and culture of which the Carers WA Head Office is located. Carers WA recognises our services reach beyond the Perth region, and so we also acknowledge the cultural diversity of First Nation Peoples across our state and throughout Australia.



# About Carers in Western Australia



## Who is a carer?

A carer is a person who provides care and assistance to a person with disability, a chronic illness, mental ill health, alcohol or drug dependency or who requires assistance with everyday tasks due to frailty.<sup>3</sup>

This care is unpaid and does not form part of a volunteer or work arrangement.<sup>4</sup>

The care which carers provide is valued at **\$77.9 billion** per year and amounts to **2.2 billion** hours of unpaid care per year. This invaluable care supports WA's already strained health system, and assists many people to retain their independence at home, outside of services such as residential aged care.

While the demand for informal carers is projected to increase **23%** by 2030, the number of informal carers is only expected to increase by **16%** over this timeframe.

This represents a total shortfall by 2030 of:



**22,400**  
carers in WA



**\$623 million**  
annual replacement cost in waged workers

**10.7%**  
(320,000 people)

of Western Australians are carers.



**24%**  
of carers in WA are in **crisis**.<sup>6</sup>

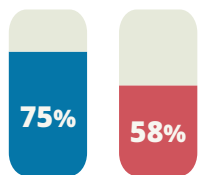


**27%** of WA carers cannot raise **\$2K** when needed.



**1 in 2** carers experience financial **stress**.<sup>7</sup>

## Personal Wellbeing Index Score<sup>7</sup>



General Population Carers



**47%** provide care to someone aged 65+.<sup>7</sup>



**49%** of carers provide 24/7 care.<sup>7</sup>



The average length of the caring role is **12.9** years.<sup>7</sup>

**90%** of these carers live with disproportionately lower protective factors of social support, self-efficacy, recognition and work-life balance.<sup>7</sup>

**1 in 5** carers in WA live outside the greater Perth area.<sup>7</sup>



## First Nations Carers

In the past 2 years, 1 in 5 identified carers had accessed emergency support.<sup>7</sup>



**1 in 3** say their home is not adequate for their caring role.<sup>7</sup>

**51.3%** have an annual income less than **\$50,000**.<sup>7</sup>



**2 in 5** are caring for more than 1 person.<sup>7</sup>

1. (ABS, 2022)  
2. (SAGE Design & Advisory, 2023)  
3. (Government of Western Australia, 2004)  
4. (Government of Western Australia, 2004)

5. (Deloitte Access Economics, 2020)  
6. (SAGE Design & Advisory, 2023)  
7. (National Carer Survey, 2022)  
8. (National Carer Survey, 2023)

# Executive Summary

Carers in regional areas experience ongoing substantial issues with access to services, especially to disability services. They also experience higher distress, elevated social isolation and financial stress than the average Australian<sup>1</sup>.

Carers in regional areas of Western Australia (WA) in particular, experience ongoing and increased service challenges with NDIS, aged care and mental health services. They also experience higher volumes of unmet carer support needs, as well as poorer health and higher instances of major illnesses<sup>2</sup>. In short, a high proportion of WA regional carers are in crisis.

This situation became heightened over the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in increased levels of stress, burnout and isolation for WA regional carers<sup>3</sup>.

This was indicated through past consultation with WA regional carers and service providers. In particular, these consultations indicated a severe lack of respite access; workforce shortages; a need for local community supports beyond those available through Carer Gateway; long wait times and high demand for services; a lack of awareness of regional challenges; and a need for increased funding for regional services to recognise and respond to stress in carers<sup>4</sup>.

In a move to reconnect with regional communities following COVID-19, and driven by these past consultations, Carers WA has committed to augment its existing service offerings with an enhanced focus on regional communities. In the 2023-24 financial year, this will take the form of increased regional representation and consultations to identify region-specific issues – for a region-specific response.

Carers WA visited the Kimberley region in October 2023 as part of this commitment. We had the opportunity to meet with many different members of the community. During these meetings, we listened to the wisdom and knowledge that only a long-term regional community member can provide. We heard that the main issues of great concern to carers in the Kimberley region were a lack of awareness and availability of services; awareness of carers and carer services; shortages and affordability of housing; and a lack of suitability of services to remote and regional areas.

This report not only summarises what we learnt during our visit to the region, it will act as a launching pad for future involvement in the region. We sincerely thank everyone who offered their time and advice. We look forward to seeing you again as we collaboratively work on solutions together.

Sincerely  
**Richard Newman**  
**Carers WA - CEO**



- 
1. (Carers NSW, 2023)
  2. (SAGE Design & Advisory, 2023)
  3. (Carers WA, 2022)
  4. (Carers WA, 2022)



# Carers in WA's Regions

In Western Australia, 24% of carers are in crisis (defined as being carers with high needs)<sup>5</sup>.

This results in higher psychological distress, a greater impact of their caring role on work, more care tasks, lower social support, recognition, work-life balance and self-efficacy<sup>6</sup>.

This is particularly prevalent in WA regional areas<sup>7</sup>, in the midst of heightened and pronounced challenges which carers in regional areas have in accessing services and support for themselves and those they care for, along with issues with housing and transport.

## The Kimberley Region

The Kimberley Region is comprised of the local government areas of Broome, Derby-West Kimberley, Halls Creek and Wyndham-East Kimberley<sup>8</sup>.

## Carers in the Kimberley Region

There are an estimated 3,755 carers in the Kimberley region<sup>9</sup>.

Given the demographics of the region, a higher than usual proportion of these are likely to be young carers and/or from a First Nations background. Both of these cohorts experience lower rates of self-identification as a carer. This has been reflected in the estimated carer numbers.

## Population

In 2021, the estimated resident population of the Kimberley region (SA3\*) was 35,092<sup>10</sup>.

*\*SA3 refers to Statistical Areas Level 3 in the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). It is a geographical area, creating a standard framework for regional data analysis<sup>11</sup>.*

The median age in the Kimberley region is 33, significantly lower than the WA median age of 38<sup>12</sup>. This is reflective of the substantially higher

proportion of the Kimberley's population in the 0-14 year and 15-44 year age brackets, than in WA<sup>13</sup>. This is indicative of a higher presence of young carers in this region, as well as a high need for young carer supports. 38.3% of people living in the Kimberley region identify as being from a First Nations background<sup>14</sup>.

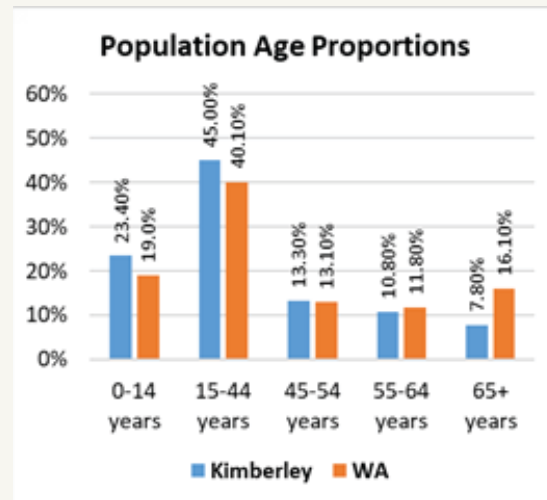


Figure 1 Population Demographics for WA and the Kimberley region<sup>15</sup>

## Health

In the Kimberley region, 16.2% (1 in 6) report having one or more long-term health conditions. This amounts to over 5,699 people<sup>16</sup>.

The top five specified long-term health conditions in the region are asthma (4.6% of the population);

5. (SAGE Design & Advisory, 2023)
6. (SAGE Design & Advisory, 2023)
7. (SAGE Design & Advisory, 2023)
8. (Government of Western Australia, 2020)
9. Derived figures based on proportion of WA population who are carers and estimated resident population of the Kimberley region.
10. (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021)
11. (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016)
12. (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021)
13. (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021)
14. (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021)
15. (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021)
16. (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021)



# Carers in WA's Regions

mental health conditions (including depression or anxiety) (4.1%); diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes) (4.1%); and arthritis (3.2%).

## Housing and Income

In the Kimberley, only 13.2% of the population owned their home outright (compared to 29.2% in WA). A further 17.9% owned their own home on a mortgage (40.0% in WA), while a substantial 59.3% of people rented their home (27.3% in WA)<sup>17</sup>.

The proportion of the population on a lower income was 18.0% (16.3% in WA). Median monthly mortgage payments in the Kimberley also sat 18.9% higher than those in wider WA<sup>18</sup>.

The Kimberley region also has the highest public housing waitlist times in the state, with West Kimberley wait times averaging 4.35 years and East Kimberley wait times averaging 2.96 years<sup>19</sup>. These are shown in Figure 2 below.

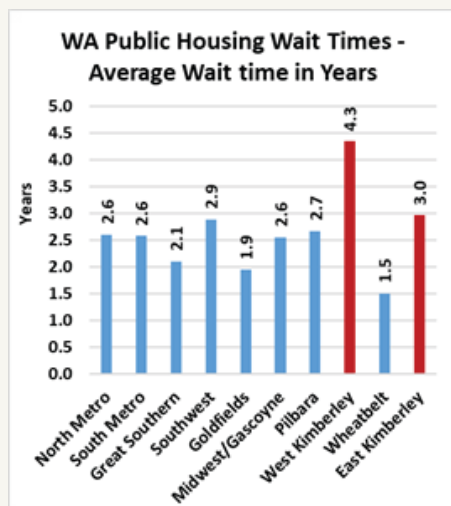


Figure 2 Average WA Public Housing Wait times<sup>20</sup>

Even for the Priority Wait list only, public housing wait times for the Kimberley are over 2 years long<sup>21</sup>.

## Disadvantage

The Socio-Economic Indexes For Areas (SEIFA) ranks areas in Australia according to their relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage<sup>22</sup>.

The index uses 1,000 as a baseline, with a score above 1,000 representing an area of socio-economic advantage, and a score below 1,000 showing an area of socio-economic disadvantage<sup>23</sup>.

All Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the Kimberley region scored below 1,000 in the index of relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage – indicating that they are areas experiencing socio-economic disadvantage<sup>24</sup>.

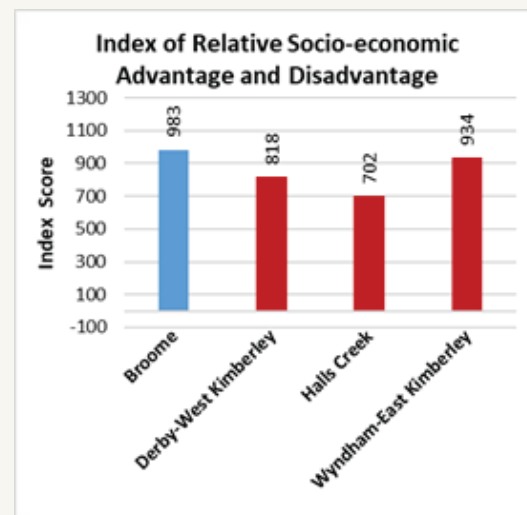


Figure 3 SEIFA Indexes for Local Government Areas in the Kimberley<sup>25</sup>

In addition, Halls Creek ranked as the most relatively disadvantaged Local Government Area in WA (out of 139 LGAs), with Derby-West Kimberley not far behind as the fourth most disadvantaged. Moreover, 75% of the LGAs in this region ranked in the 37 most relatively disadvantaged LGAs in WA<sup>26</sup>. These are shown in red in Figure 3.

- 17. (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021)
- 18. (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021)
- 19. (Parliament of Western Australia, 2023)
- 20. (Parliament of Western Australia, 2023)
- 21. (Parliament of Western Australia, 2023)
- 22. (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2023)
- 23. (Rural Health West, 2016)
- 24. (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2023)
- 25. (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2023)
- 26. (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2023)
- 27. (Rural Health West, 2016)
- 28. (SAGE Design & Advisory, 2023)



# Carers in WA's Regions

A lower SIEFA score for an area has been shown to correlate with a poorer health status and higher ill health risk factors<sup>27</sup>. Independent analysis of the WA results of the 2022 National Carer Survey indicated that most carers in WA were receiving government payments, and that 57% of carers receiving government payments were living below the poverty line<sup>28</sup>.

This in turn results in additional stress from the strain of struggling to make ends meet, as well as undertake a challenging caring role. People living below the poverty line are also more likely to experience family stress, housing issues, and poor health and psychological outcomes<sup>29</sup>.

## Projected demand for informal care

While the demand for informal carers in Australia is projected to increase 23% by 2030, driven in part by Australia's aging population; the number of informal carers is only projected to increase by 16% over this timeframe<sup>30</sup>.

Holding population levels steady, for the Kimberley region this represents a shortfall of 263 carers by 2030 (4,618 carers needed by 2030; compared to a projected 4,356 carers by 2030 in the region). This is at a minimum 263 people who would have needed a carer, who will require support through the WA health system instead. The average value to replace the informal care undertaken by one carer is \$27,821 in wages per year (2020 figures) – amounting to a minimum cost of \$7.313 million in wages per year for formal carers to cover this shortfall of 263 carers (not adjusted for CPI or other wage increases).

This does not account for the cost of other alternate care arrangements for the person receiving care.

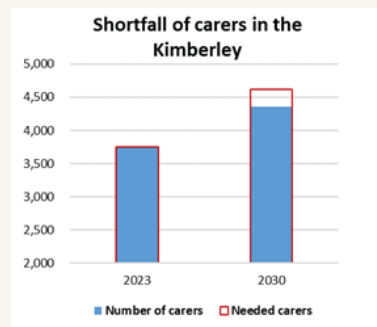


Figure 4 Projected shortfall of carers in the Kimberley by 2030

The average value to replace informal care undertaken by one carer is \$27,821 in wages per year (2020 figures) – amounting to a minimum cost of \$7.3 million in wages per year for formal carers to cover this shortfall of 263 carers (not adjusted for CPI or other wage increases).

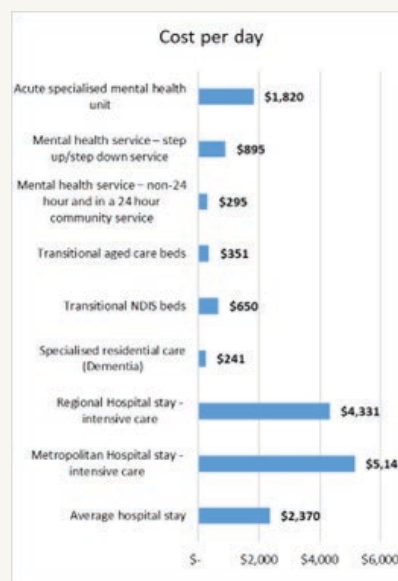


Figure 5 Indicative costs of alternate care arrangements <sup>31, 32, 33</sup>

This does not account for the cost of other alternate care arrangements for the person receiving care.

29. (SAGE Design & Advisory, 2023)  
 30. (Deloitte Access Economics, 2020)  
 31. (Office of the Auditor General Western Australia, 2022)  
 32. (Gnanamanickam, et al., 2018)  
 33. (Hicks, et al., 2019)

# Summary

As demonstrated in Figure 5, the indicative costs of alternate care arrangements for a person who does not have an informal carer, can be high. When considered on an annual basis, the value of carers becomes even more clear, especially in the case of a long stay patient. Recently, the WA Office of the Auditor General estimated 486 patients waiting for NDIS or aged care services had spent about 40,000 days extra in hospital over a 13-month period, with the excess cost of care for this being approximately \$71.8 million.

Being a carer currently means being invisible. This needs to change, through tangible and practical recognition of carers, as well as improving access to services in WA's regions, in recognition of what a carer's true value is.

## Introduction

In October 2023, Carers WA spent five days in Broome, increasing its organisational presence in the region and reconnecting with carers and service providers following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ten staff members who visited the region hold a diversity of positions from across Carers WA's services. They attended and delivered meetings, expos, presentations and events to carers, service providers and the broader community in the region. These events included the Broome Elders Forum; a Carer Photo Shoot; a Carer Scenic Ocean Cruise and lunch; a movie night for carers and a Service Provider Sundowner.

The organisations that Carers WA met with included State Government representatives; disability services; aged care services; health facilities; mental health services; Aboriginal health services; community organisations; youth organisations; and media outlets.

## One of Carers WA's objectives for the trip was to consult with the community on:

- What was and wasn't working for carers in the region;
- Identify unmet needs for carers;
- Identify short- and longer-term opportunities for improvement; and
- Collate recommendations from the community to enable these improvements.

Over the week, Carers WA engaged with a wide range of service providers, government representatives, carers and people who receive care. The organisations that we met with included members of government organisations; disability services; aged care services; health facilities; mental health services; Aboriginal health services; community organisations; youth organisations; and media outlets.

The feedback that emerged from this broad representation of the community revealed a concerning and broad range of deeply entrenched issues, which Carers WA believes are contributory factors to the region's experience of socio-economic disadvantage, as demonstrated by the SEIFA scores of the local government areas in the Kimberley.

## The overarching themes of these issues included issues with:

- an awareness of carers and carer services; awareness of locally available services, including how to navigate them;
- a lack of locally available services, exacerbated by workforce and skills shortages across the region;
- shortages and affordability of housing; and
- lack of suitability of services to remote and regional areas.



# Findings

## 1.0 Awareness of carers and carer services

A lack of awareness of carers, carer services and carer legislation are common challenges that present themselves in Carers WA's engagement and advocacy. Indeed, in a recent online survey conducted on carer recognition:

- 41.55% of carers did not know of the existence of the WA Carers Recognition Act 2004 before completing the online survey;
- 44.29% felt there was a lack of awareness of the WA Act by service providers;
- 63.47% of survey respondents thought there was a need for further recognition of carers; and
- Only 1.83% of respondents felt there was enough recognition of carers.

This reoccurring issue was found to also be present in Broome and the Kimberley region more broadly. This sentiment was consistent amongst community organisations, service providers, carers and government organisations.

In particular, a range of common areas of confusion included the difference between a carer and a paid care or support worker; and awareness of Carers WA and Carer Gateway, how processes operated and who to contact.

These misunderstandings impacted levels of carer recognition and identification and created barriers for carers accessing services in a timely manner through incorrect information.

Feedback was extremely positive around having someone on the ground for carers, through Carers WA's Carer Gateway delivery partner, Helping Minds.

However, there was found to be a consensus that Carers WA needed to have a more regular and

ongoing presence in the greater Kimberley region. In response to this consensus, Carers WA has committed to return to the Kimberley region and visit more remote communities and engage with First Nations carers on Country. This is in addition to Carers WA's existing outreach teams, advocacy, organisational partnerships and work in regional areas.

While these actions are anticipated to contribute to improvements in carer awareness, a collaborative approach is needed to address the ongoing challenges carers in regional and remote areas experience. This is to ensure carers have local and timely access to services that are aware of the substantial contribution that they make to their communities through their caring role.

## 2.0 Awareness of locally available services

Carers WA's findings indicated that while residents in Broome were somewhat aware of the services available in town, these services were few and very stretched. Residents in remote areas had less awareness of what services were available in Broome, and experienced difficulties in service navigation.

These difficulties became particularly pronounced if services were only located in Broome (not the broader Kimberley region), or had limited types of service offerings and access. i.e. services only being available online.

While some feedback indicated service providers were making efforts to improve supports through stakeholder meetings, the limited amount of this feedback indicated much room for growth in this area. Some members of the community commented that despite the low number of workers, they managed to provide a good level of service provision for what was available.

# Findings

## 3.0 Local access to services

### 3.1 Access to services in remote areas

A key concern raised by the Kimberley community was access to and availability of services in remote areas of the region. This was raised by half of the service providers consulted, with many reporting the need for improved cultural awareness and safety within services and awareness of community complexities in remote areas.

Feedback indicated minimal service providers in remote Kimberley areas, with other barriers raised such as language barriers; high cost of living; lack of carer self-identification due to cultural differences; and lack of transport and technology.

These barriers have an impact on communication and service access. The community suggested the use of FIFO workers for community and specialist services within remote areas of the Kimberley, and consideration of long-term funding and initiatives to improve service access across the region.

Stakeholders recommended Carers WA travel to remote communities to better understand and see firsthand the realities and complexities of remote communities. Specific communities recommended included Wangkatjunga and Noonkanbah, along with use of an interpreter if needed.

In addition to difficulties with access to services in remote areas, the community also voiced concerns regarding the inflexibility of supports to suit remote communities. For example, feedback indicated that capacity building supports are less effective and/inappropriate in the Kimberley, particularly in remote communities where services such as phone, internet and electricity are either not present, or unreliable. Further, face-to-face supports were also indicated to be culturally better received in remote communities.

### 3.2 Access to services

Community feedback indicated that there were minimal service providers in remote areas of the Kimberley, and limited access to services even in Broome.

This included support workers, allied health providers, etc. This made accessing supports for those needing them extremely difficult. This is significant for carers as these services reduce their caring responsibilities. Carers end up taking on a bigger role than they otherwise would have. This has contributed to substantial demand for respite and support for carers.

Another substantial concern raised was the levels and lack of local services for suicide prevention and intervention in the region.

### 3.3 Access to respite

One-third of service providers consulted raised concerns about access to respite or opportunities for carers to have a break.

Carers in remote communities were particularly flagged as being 'forgotten' and often having no access to respite. If events for carers were offered, this was done so in Broome, leaving remote carers feeling not invited or them not hearing about the event at all.

The Kimberley community recommended a number of 'quick win' actions which could help carers in the region to have some opportunity to take a break. This included small plans to assist carers through peer support and in-home respite. Improved access to residential respite services was also called for, as well as assistance with chores such as cleaning and yard work, to allow carers more time to take a break.

# Findings

In addition, carers called for initiatives which allowed an increased connection to others, such as network support groups; cultural emotional support; men's and women's support groups; art therapy for trauma or stress; respite; and mental health supports for carers.

### 3.4 Access to transport

In Australia, about 28% of its population live in regional, rural or remote areas with poor access to specialist health services<sup>34</sup>.

Access to transport was raised as a significant issue for the Kimberley region, particularly for remote outer areas.

The Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) was also identified as something that was commonly raised as a challenge, especially given the rising cost of flights, fuel and accommodation.

While the Scheme is intended to improve access to specialist medical care where it isn't available locally, feedback from the region included that it was not suitable for remote areas. It was also raised that the scheme did not adequately support carers as it was for the use of the person needing treatment.

### 3.5 Services and support for people with experience in the justice system

The Kimberley community provided feedback indicating a concerning lack of holistic support for people with experience in the justice system.

Young people exiting detention were raised as an example of this, with limited rehabilitation services or linkage of other needed services such as the NDIS being provided.

This is of relevance to carers due to the high prevalence of trauma, mental ill health and other

health conditions in young people exiting the justice system, particularly for First Nations peoples. This prevalence means there is a higher likelihood of people with a health condition and with experience in the justice system having a carer.

### 3.6 Lack of legal services

A concerning lack of legal services was raised by the Kimberley community in a variety of different circumstances.

The first case was for a lack of legal advice with end-of-life care, and building an understanding of the medical, legal and caring processes.

The second was in the case of domestic violence, particularly with thin markets in legal service availability in the Kimberley. For example, the Aboriginal Legal Service cannot support someone if the opposing party is already a client with them.

### 3.7 Education and employment

The Kimberley community raised concerns regarding the employment of First Nations peoples in the region, particularly for young people. While the cost of living in the region was increasing, opportunities for employment for First Nations peoples were not.

Cultural awareness in the education sector was highlighted as needing to be supported to retain language and culture. Opportunities suggested included operation of cultural awareness initiatives in educational facilities and events, with local Elders and senior First Nations peoples recognised as educators.

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34. (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2023)

35. (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2023)

# Findings

## 4.0 Shortages and affordability of housing

Housing affordability and availability was raised as a significant issue, with Broome presently experiencing a chronic shortage of rental and longer term housing. This directly impacts affordability, cost of living and critical worker shortages within essential services<sup>35</sup>. This places additional strain on carers in the region as tasks which would have been performed by care workers for those they care for, now fall to them to complete.

Carers WA heard anecdotal feedback of rental costs being upwards of \$800pw and median property prices of \$1million. The impact of this on the availability of accommodation for carers, families and workers cannot be underestimated.

Particular concerns were raised around support for people experiencing homelessness in the region, especially for First Nations youth in rehabilitation. First Nations people experiencing homelessness reportedly also often stayed at the local park in town, which was reported to cause health problems due to the sewerage underground.

## 5.0 Limited understanding of First Nations culture and community

Carers WA ensured engagement with First Nations carers and organisations was a priority for this visit to the Kimberley region.

This engagement indicated significant opportunity for improvement in the region, of service provider understanding of First Nations culture, community and cultural complexities in remote areas. Due to this, feedback revealed that First Nations carers could feel hesitant to engage with local service providers.

First Nations carers in remote areas also advised Carers WA to return to the region to build stronger connections and relationships with the community, as well as a better understanding of First Nations region-specific issues.

The community also raised the need for a referral service appropriate to cultural needs.

It was also raised that many First Nations carers in the region were not aware of each other. It was recommended that a First Nations carer support group be established to make connections, support and build awareness.

## 6.0 Action Plan

In response to the findings outlined within this report, Carers WA has included a range of actions that could be taken to improve areas of need for carers in the Kimberley region.

These actions have been aligned to the key focus areas and to specific levers, which are described below<sup>36</sup>:

- **Policy controls and Information development:** What policy measures and/ or information can be used to incentivise and remove barriers to development of this action?
- **Enabling infrastructure:** What key infrastructure can be delivered, and in what timeframe, to encourage investment in this action?
- **Direct investment:** What direct investment or partnership is needed to achieve this action?
- **Incentives/Subsidies:** What incentives or subsidies can be applied to encourage investment in this action?

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36. Adapted from - (Urbis, 2022)

# Findings

<b>Focus area</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Intervention Type</b>	<b>Stakeholder Role</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Awareness of carers and carer services	Increased awareness raising and information on carers, Carers WA, the Carer Gateway, how processes work and who to contact.	Policy Controls and Information Development	Deliver	Short-term	High
Awareness of carers and carer services	Carers WA to continue to build relationships with service providers for delivery of practical supports, domestic supports, respite and services for carers within the region that reflects the demands on the ground.	Direct Investment	Partner	Long-term	High
Awareness of carers and carer services	Enhance collaboration with service providers to strengthen identification and referral pathways for carers.	Policy Controls and Information Development	Partner	Short-term	High
Awareness of carers and carer services	Carers WA to build awareness of and define young carer supports with key stakeholders.	Policy Controls and Information Development	Deliver	Medium-term	High
Access to services in remote areas	Increased engagement and consultation with carers in remote areas of the Kimberley region.	Direct Investment	Deliver	Long-term	High
Access to services in remote areas	Long term funding and initiatives for sustainable community programs within the Kimberley region, in response to identified unmet needs.	Direct Investment	Partner	Long-term	High

# Findings

Access to services	Explore options for service navigation initiatives which focus on bridging workforce continuity issues.	Enabling Infrastructure	Partner	Medium-term	Medium
Respite and carer retreats	Support initiatives which provide increased and affordable access to quality respite services, including in-home and residential respite.	Policy Control & Information Development	Advocate	Medium-term	High
Respite and carer retreats	Explore options for the establishment of a local carer retreat.	Enabling Infrastructure	Partner	Long-term	High
Respite and carer retreats	Support initiatives which allowed an increased connection to others for carers, such as network support groups; cultural emotional support; men's and women's support groups; art therapy for trauma or stress; respite; and mental health supports for carers.	Policy Control & Information Development	Advocate	Long-term	High
Services and support for people with experience in the justice system	Support initiatives that invest in a holistic model of support for people with experience in the justice system with a health condition listed under the WA Carer Recognition Act 2004.	Policy Control & Information Development	Advocate	Medium-term	Medium
Lack of legal services	Investigate initiatives that provide legal advice with end-of-life care, domestic violence, and building an understanding of the medical, legal and caring processes.	Policy Control & Information Development	Deliver	Medium-term	High
Education and Employment	Support initiatives which increase employment opportunities for First Nations peoples in the Kimberley region.	Policy Control & Information Development	Partner	Medium-term	Medium

# Findings

Shortages and affordability of housing	Support initiatives which provide increased housing options for carers that are timely, available, accessible and affordable.	Policy Controls and Information Development	Advocate	Medium-term	Medium
Limited understanding of First Nations culture and community	Carers WA to return to the region to build stronger connections and relationships with remote First Nations communities.	Policy Control & Information Development	Deliver	Medium-term	High
Limited understanding of First Nations culture and community	Establish a First Nations carer support group to build community awareness and connections between carers.	Policy Control & Information Development	Deliver	Medium-term	High
Access to transport	Support initiatives to improve PATS suitability to remote WA and support of carers.	Policy Control & Information Development	Advocate	Long-term	Low
Consulting and Collaboration	In partnership with the First Nations community, develop a clear process to include and involve First Nations Elders in policy and process design.	Policy Control & Information Development	Advocate	Medium-term	High
Consulting and Collaboration	Development of ongoing consultation opportunities for carers living in rural and remote WA.	Policy Control & Information Development	Deliver	Medium-term	High
Holistic approach to service connection	Develop and multi-service approach to identify supports of young people in the justice system to support them post-release. For example, NDIS supports.	Policy Control & Information Development	Advocate	Medium Term	High

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