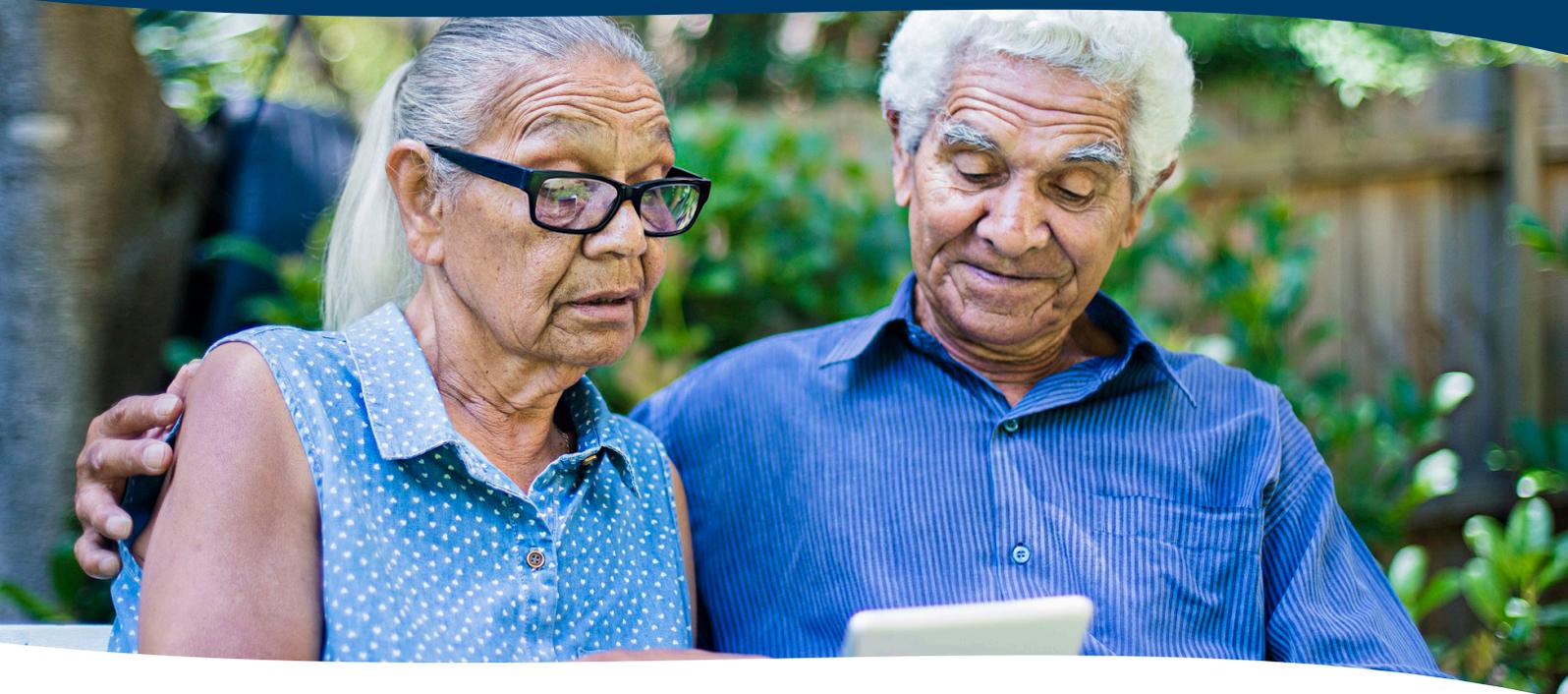


Older Persons Health and Palliative Care



In early 2022, Primary Health Networks (PHN) were offered funding to deliver a range of initiatives under the former Government's Connecting Senior Australians to Aged Care Services budget measure, as part of the Government's response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) held a total of six consumer and aged care provider stakeholder events in Mackay, Townsville, and Cairns in September 2022 and a series of virtual events to inform this body of work.

Care Finder Program

New funding to establish and maintain a network of Care Finders to provide specialist and intensive assistance to help people understand and access aged care and connect with other relevant community supports.

NQPHN is finalising the establishment of a number of Care Finder providers throughout the region, including facilitating a number of co-design workshops that will inform the development of localised strategies to assist vulnerable older people to access appropriate aged care services.

Out of hours support for RACFs

New funding to support RACFs to develop and implement after hours action plans.

NQPHN is in the planning stages for a collaborative approach between RACFs, Hospital and Health Services (HHSs), general practitioners, and NQPHN.

Telehealth for aged care residents

New funding to support residential aged care facilities (RACFs) to have the appropriate video consultation facilities and technology so their residents can access telehealth care with primary health care professionals.

NQPHN has commissioned a consultancy firm to undertake an audit of baseline technology and capacity in RACFs and recommend strategies for improving telehealth capacity and capability. NQPHN will work with the commissioned provider and RACFs to implement the recommendations.



NQPHN acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nation Peoples and the Traditional Custodians of this land. We respect their continued connection to land and sea, country, kin, and community. We also pay our respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging as the custodians of knowledge and lore.



Commissioning early intervention

New funding to support senior Australians to live at home for as long as possible by commissioning early intervention activities and models of care for chronic disease management that support health ageing.

NQPHN is finalising stakeholder consultations for this project, which will be an element of the Chronic Conditions Prevention and Management Strategy.

Greater choice for at-home palliative care

New funding to support improved coordination of palliative care in the community.

NQPHN is facilitating workshops throughout the region to train Health Community Connectors to contribute to building Compassionate Communities to improve the end-of-life experience.

Aged care and dementia clinical referral pathways

New funding to develop aged care and dementia pathways for use by clinicians during consultation with patients, to support assessment and referral to local services and supports, and to develop local consumer resources to support older people and their carers and families to make informed choices.

NQPHN is working closely with existing Health Pathways providers, key stakeholders, and the Queensland PHN Collective to progress these projects.



Number of Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs)

NQPHN

64

TORRES AND CAPE

4

CAIRNS AND HINTERLAND

23

TOWNSVILLE

23

MACKAY

14

Target and total population count by HHS catchment

Age group	Torres and Cape	Cairns and Hinterland	Townsville	Mackay	NQPHN
50 years and over (Indigenous) number	1,465	5,000	2,603	1,201	11,983
50 years and over (Indigenous) percentage of population	8.87%	1.90%	1.90%	0.73%	1.70%
65 years and over (non-Indigenous) number	707	41,979	41,979	21,840	100,521
65 years and over (non-Indigenous) percentage of population	4.24%	15.91%	15.91%	13.23%	14.30%
Total target population	2,373	50,787	50,787	25,017	121,003

NOTE: Difference between 50+ Indigenous persons and 65+ non-Indigenous persons and total target population can be attributed to persons who did not identify as either Indigenous or non-Indigenous.

Date sources:

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021, 'Queensland datapack', <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>, accessed 16/09/2022.

Population counts have been derived using the 2021 ABS census data. Given HHS geographies are not supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, population figures were derived by intersecting HHS shapefiles with ABS SA1 shapefiles to identify which SA1 areas are at least in part covered in the HHS footprint. Applicable SA1 population counts are then aggregated for each HHS.

Cairns

p: (07) 4034 0300
Level 3, 36 Shields Street
Cairns, Qld 4870

Townsville

p: (07) 4796 0400
Building 500, Level 3
1 James Cook Drive, Douglas, Qld 4814

Mackay

p: (07) 4963 4400
2/45 Victoria Street (Ground Floor)
Mackay, Qld 4740