



CASE STUDY

Cancer Screening at Newman Community Centre

Practice Name: Newman Community Centre • **Location:** Newman, WA • **MM:** 7

Context

Registered Nurse Anna Buchanan is based in Newman, a remote mining town in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. While working at Newman Community Centre, Anna recognised that underscreening for cancer was a critical gap in local population health.

As a participant in APNA's Building Nurse Capacity project, Anna established a vital cancer screening clinic to support her community. This nurse clinic focused on providing screening that was adaptive to the needs of the local community, including FIFO and migrant workers. care diabetes education and management services in the Alstonville area.

A clear plan

Newman has limited GP services, and remoteness has been identified as a major factor in underscreening for cervical cancer. With this in mind, Anna's goal was to provide accessible and affordable cancer screening services, including bowel, cervical, and breast screening, as well as skin checks. Anna wanted to improve cancer screening rates in Newman by 20% through access to free or affordable local cancer screening initiatives, including self-collection and patient education.

Funding

Alongside funding from participation in the Building Nurse Capacity Program, Anna was supported by the Newman Community Centre to run cancer screening programs. The local mining company also partners with Newman Community Centre for program funding.

Location and facilities

Anna's nurse clinic was positioned in a separate building located within the Newman Community Centre. This allowed privacy for the patients to access the screening clinic.

Staffing and HR

Anna was well supported by her colleagues at Newman Community Centre but was the only clinician on staff. As Anna was working in a small team, engaging support services like APNA and Larter Consulting was a key enabler for Anna in developing her clinic.

Best-practice care

Extreme heat temperatures experienced in Newman mean that clinical samples posted to laboratories are at risk of deterioration during transit. To minimise this risk, Anna promoted cervical and bowel cancer screening initiatives during the cooler months. For cervical screening, patients opted for either self-collection or clinician collect methods, and in complex cases, Anna referred the patient to a GP for collection.

Anna provided free home bowel cancer screening test kits to eligible people, as part of the National Bowel Cancer Screening program. Again, extreme heat in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, meant that Anna promoted self-collection and posting of samples, during the winter months.



We acknowledge the Nyiyaparli people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands featured in this story and pay our respects to Elders past and present.



Throughout the year, Anna encourages breast cancer awareness through self-examination and educates people attending the Community Centre, or at targeted community events (i.e. Pink Bingo; Pink Breakfast).

Anna also facilitates promotion of BreastScreen WA free mobile mammogram service which visits Newman every two years. Likewise, Anna widely promotes the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation annual mobile skin check service when it visits Newman.

Patient engagement

Newman was established as a company town to support the development of iron ore deposits at nearby Mount Whaleback, and many of the local residents are FIFO and/or migrant workers. Anna's clinic has addressed a key gap in local population health by targeting financial barriers, accessibility

issues, and the need for enhanced trust and rapport within the community. Alongside screening activities, Anna focused on increasing awareness for cancer screening and the recent changes to both bowel and cervical screening, through community-based health promotion activities.

Supporting systems and processes

Patients book a nurse appointment online



Patient receives confirmation email



At appointment – with patient permission, nurse checks PRODA (national registers) for patient's latest cervical and/or bowel screening results and discusses results with the patient



Education is provided with self-collection kits or Anna conducts screening as appropriate

Evaluation and improvement

Anna's nurse clinic has provided the Newman community with essential cancer screening, alongside STI testing, and general health advice. Anna had a clear focus on sustainability, ensuring that this service can continue, even in her absence:



APNA's Building Nurse Capacity Project has been rewarding. I've been able to develop the clinic to where it is now. If I'm not here, the next nurse coming in will be able to just take off where I've left and build it to whatever other health needs are required in the community.



Scan the QR code to watch the video about [Newman Community Centre's Nurse Clinic](#).

APNA's Building Nurse Capacity Program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing under the Nursing in Primary Health Care Program.