



**Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA
Minister for Health; Mental Health**

Our Ref: 76-17132

Ms Karina Reeves
CoPAHM Coordinator
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Dear Ms Reeves

Thank you for your letter of 13 July 2022 to the Minister for Health regarding HIV and mobility in Australia and your call for an increase in targeted and specific resourcing for migrant and mobile populations affected by HIV to facilitate an end to transmission by 2025. The Minister has asked me to respond to you on her behalf.

The Western Australian Government is committed to the virtual elimination of HIV and identifies culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) people from high HIV prevalence countries and people who travel to high prevalence countries as priority populations.

The Department of Health's (DOH) epidemiological data demonstrates the impact of population mobility and migration on Western Australia's (WA) HIV response. For example, in WA between 2017 and 2021, 44 percent of new HIV cases in males reported acquisition overseas. Most of these men, the majority of whom were Australian born, acquired HIV in South-East Asia. Over the same period in WA, 63 percent of female HIV cases reported acquisition overseas, with the majority of these women acquiring HIV in South-East Asia and being born in that region. There has been a notable decline in WA in the number of new HIV cases acquiring HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, over the coming years we will see the effect of COVID-19 on HIV and mobility in WA.

I note that the DOH has funded CoPAHM since 2015 and has committed funding until 30 June 2023. CoPAHM is funded to support HIV and mobility initiatives in WA. This includes:

- a. Continuing to coordinate and support development of WA specific research and interventions;
- b. Support to WAAC (formerly known as WA AIDS Council) to implement, monitor and evaluate their HIV and Mobility Strategy; and
- c. Identify and support other relevant organisations in WA to respond to HIV and mobility.

The Western Australian Government welcomes the Federal Government's announcement on World AIDS Day 2021 to commit \$39 million over five years, to support people living with HIV in Australia who are not eligible for Medicare, to access the HIV treatment they need. The Government anticipate this will boost WA's treatment coverage, particularly for the priority population of migrant and mobile populations.

The DOH continues to support HIV and mobility issues through funding WAAC to deliver HIV prevention, testing and support to people from CaLD backgrounds, including international students.

Unfortunately, the Minister is unable to meet with you at this stage and thank you for bringing this matter to the Minister's attention.

Kind regards



Stacey Hearn
CHIEF OF STAFF

18 AUG 2022