

Development of a Theoretical, Specialist Nursing Model of Care for Melanoma Telehealth Services

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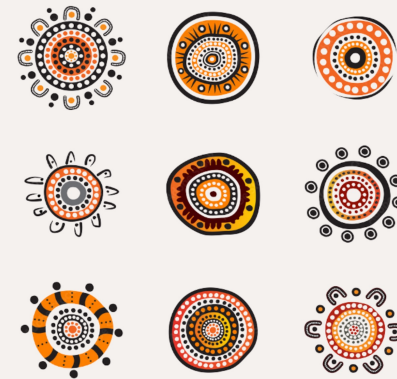
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Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge Traditional Custodians of the land on which I am presenting today, the Whadjuk Nyoongar people and pay my respects to Elders past and present.



Acknowledgement of Lived Experience

I gratefully acknowledge all people affected by melanoma who have shared their lived experiences to inform and guide our work. Their courage, insights and willingness to contribute to our work, provides invaluable perspectives to help drive meaningful change and improve the support we provide.



Rationale for a new integrated model of care

- Rising melanoma incidence and survival in Australia
- Increasingly complex of patient support needs
- Unmet needs and gaps at key transition points
- Inequitable access to specialist melanoma nurses
- Growing evidence for nurse-led telehealth & navigation models
- Fragmented care across care health care settings
- Define the complementary and integrated role of hospital and telehealth specialist melanoma nurses across the pathway

Strategic & Policy Drivers for Model Development

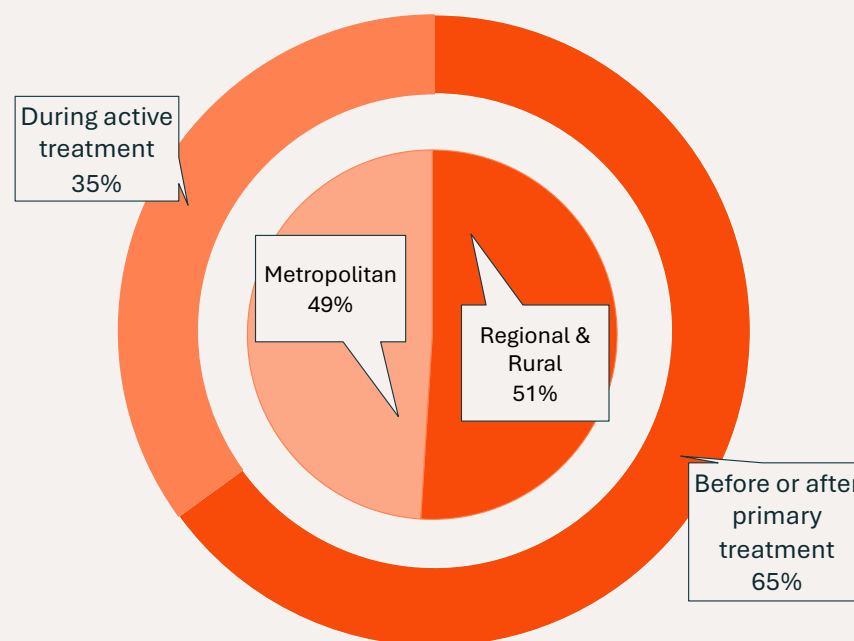
- Australian Cancer Plan
- Australian Cancer Nursing & Navigation Program & Melanoma Nurses Program
- MPA Strategic Plan
- National Safety & Quality Standards
- Optimal Care Pathway
- Integration of professional nursing & counselling standards
- A framework to support integrated, patient-centred navigation and coordination for patients



Insights from Telehealth Nurse Service Data

- 23% of patients required support before starting treatment
- 35% of patients accessed support during active treatment
- 42% patients required support after treatment
- 65% patients required supportive care before and after acute treatment
- Half of patients accessing telehealth nursing support reside in regional and rural areas

Specialist Melanoma Nursing Support
2025 (n=278)



Evidence: Supportive Care in Melanoma

Unmet Needs in Melanoma Care

- Persistent unmet psychosocial & survivorship needs
- Fear of recurrence, emotional distress common
- Increasingly complex melanoma survivorship care
- Gaps in coordinated longitudinal support across the pathway

Patient Experiences

- Value continuity & trusted therapeutic relationships
- Holistic, individualised care improves experiences
- Counselling & peer support improve outcomes
- Person-centered communication supports coping, empowerment & engagement

Nurse-led Telehealth

- Nurse led survivorship improves continuity
- Telehealth expands equitable access to specialist support
- Relationship based care supports engagement & self-management
- Specialist nurse interventions reduce distress

Navigation & Coordination

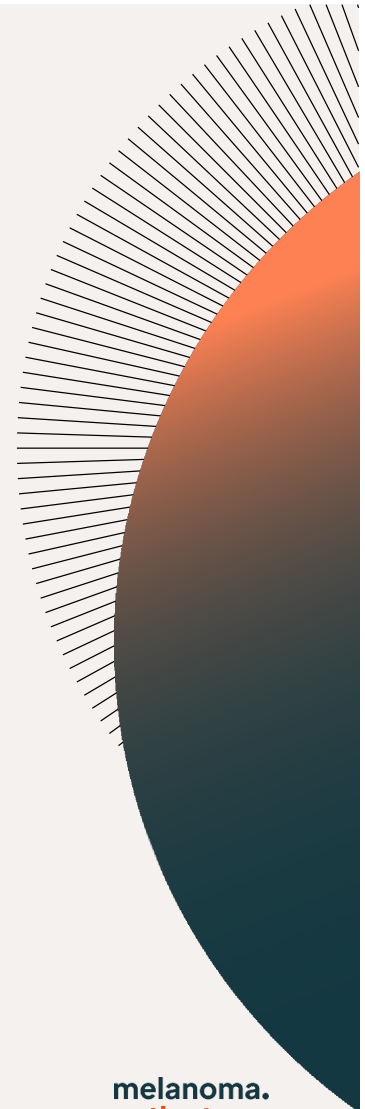
- Navigation models address barriers across pathway
- Coordinated care improves timely access and continuity of care
- Navigation requires multiple domains including emotional, informational & practical support
- Cross-sector collaboration is essential

Aim and Methodology

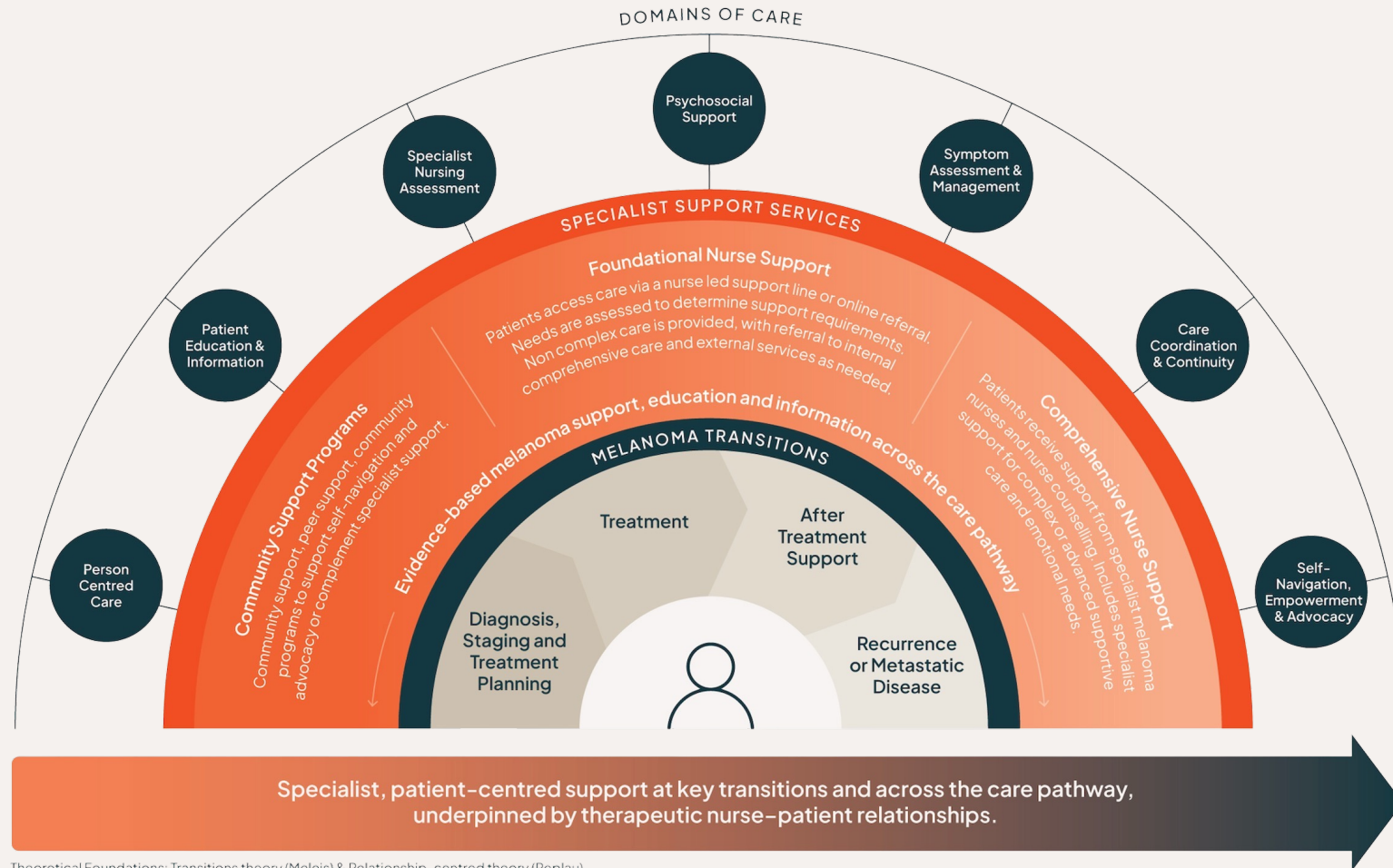
- Synthesis of emerging evidence and supportive care literature
- Analysis of telehealth service data and gaps in care
- Stakeholder engagement, including patients, clinicians, and service partners
- Integration of nursing theory (Meleis' Transition Theory and Peplau's Interpersonal Relations Theory)
- Application of implementation science frameworks (JBI Model & CFIR)
- Alignment with national policy and strategic frameworks, including the Australian Cancer Plan and ACNNP

References | Meleis, Afaf I. (2010) Transitions theory: Middle range and situation specific theories in nursing research and practice. Springer Publishing Company.
Peplau (1988) Interpersonal Relations in Nursing. Springer Publishing Company. Joanna Biggs Institute (JBI) Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR)

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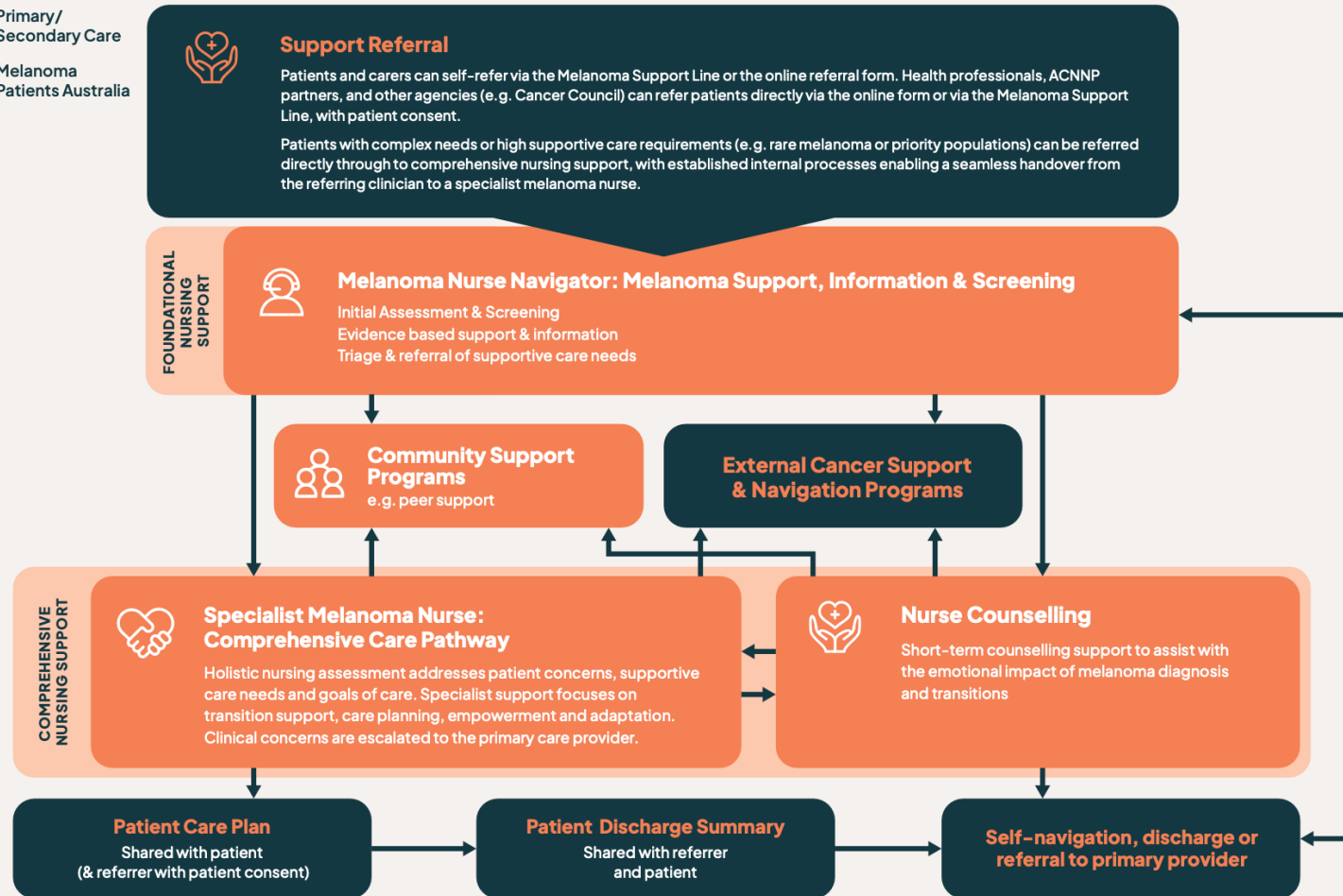


Melanoma Patients Australia Model of Care



Melanoma Telehealth Nursing Service Navigation Framework

- Primary/
Secondary Care
- Melanoma
Patients Australia



Impact and Outcomes

Impact on Care Delivery

- Enhances equitable access to melanoma nurses across the care pathway
- Strengthens referral pathways between health providers
- Individualised tiered, needs based support
- Improves continuity across transitions

Impact on Nursing practice

- Practice is founded on established nursing theory, and maximises the skills of nurses
- Supports nurses to work within scope
- Clarity of scope of practice
- Strengthens therapeutic engagement
- Defines and articulates specialist nursing contribution and outputs

System Alignment

- Aligns with ACP and ACNNP
- Integrates national safety & quality standards
- Supports coordinated care across settings
- Strengthens collaboration between services & providers
- Complements not competes with existing services

Patient Experience

- Improved access to specialist melanoma nurse
- Timely navigation to the support required
- Enhanced continuity and coordination of care
- Improves understanding, confidence & self-management
- Personalised, responsive support when needed
- Communication with care providers, as appropriate

Why this matters ...

- Enhances equitable access to specialist cancer nurses
- Fills gaps in specialist support across the patient pathway
- Supports patient-centred care and shared care planning
- Strengthens integration, referral and communication across settings
- Identifies transition barriers and facilitators
- Supports patients experiencing complexities of survivorship
- Informs future nurse-led virtual models of cancer care delivery
- A scalable framework for integrated specialist cancer nursing across cancer care pathways.

Model of Care

Melanoma Patients Australia's model of care provides an evidence-informed framework for delivering high-quality, patient-centred, specialist melanoma telehealth nursing and community support.

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