

Breaking Barriers: Delivering a Teletrial for Medicinal Cannabis to Regional, Rural and Remote Queensland

Georgie Huggett, Claire Stokes, Karyn Foster, Taylan Gurgenci, Ngaire Kingi,
Phillip Good

Bringing Care Closer to Home

Linking Mater to all patients in Qld

Geography should never determine the quality of care. Yet, clinical trials have traditionally been out of reach for rural patients, especially those with advanced cancer

Implementing a statewide medicinal cannabis teletrial through the ATP enables rural and remote Queenslanders to access trials that have previously out of reach



Qld Telehealth network



Geographic and Workforce Challenges

Queensland's vast size and limited rural palliative care services restrict equitable trial access to many patients.



Hub-and-Spoke Teletrial Model

Mater is the primary site connecting with all 15 HHS as satellite using telehealth. Enabling local trial participation and specialist oversight.



Operational Roles and Collaboration

Primary and satellite sites share responsibilities via telehealth to deliver, patient-centred clinical trials statewide.



Connecting Queensland.
Expanding access.



Better together.
Better for patients.

2024 – 2026 Implementation Timeline Overview

Foundation & Early Milestones (2024 – 2026)

HHS governance established

- First referral received: 24 Sept 2024
- First patient recruited :12 June 2024
- Most remote patient (MM7) recruited: 2 June 2025

Expansion & Recruitment (2025 – 2026)

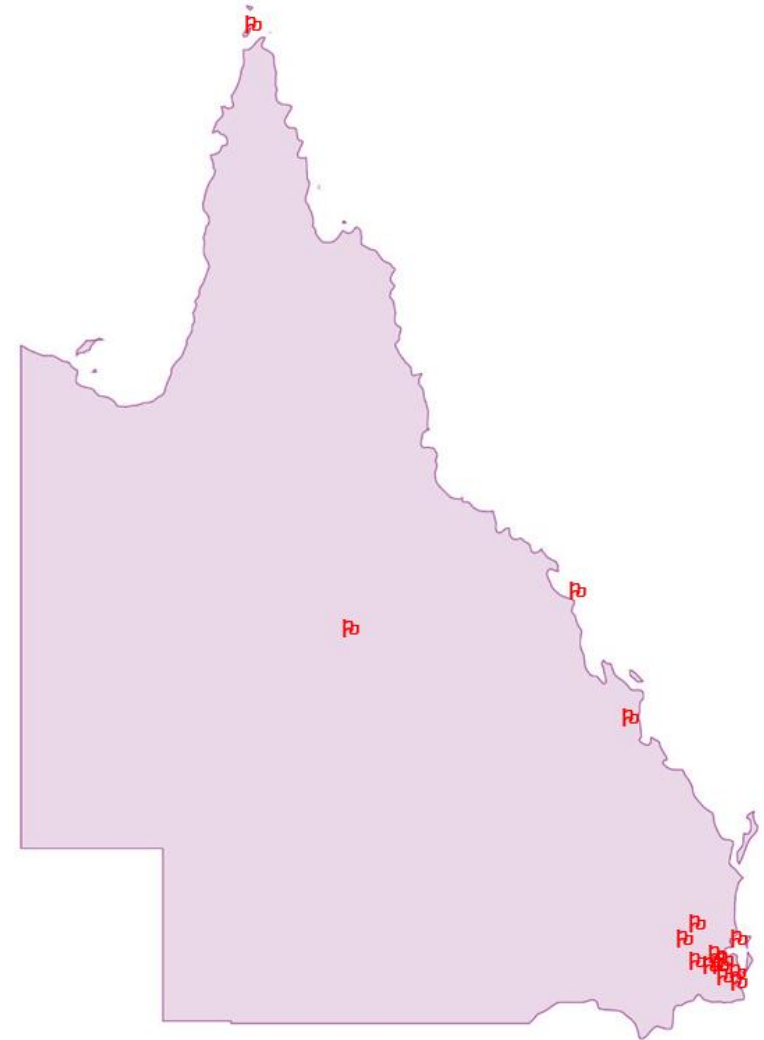
New HHS continue to open

- Recruitment expands across the network
- Oldest patient recruited to a mater clinical trial: 16 Feb 2026

Phased Statewide Growth

Structured rollout to achieve statewide access continues in 2026

- Central West first approved HHS 24 Apr 2024
- 10 out 15 HHS and 2 Mater Services open to recruitment by 2026
- As of May 2026 81 referrals have been received and 14 patients randomised



Lessons learned

Delivering teletrials across Queensland



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All 14 patients reached the primary endpoint



Compared with 92% in the main study



Overwhelmingly positive patient feedback



Expanding Access to Rural & Remote Patients

- Many patients with advanced cancer would not have been able to participate in a traditional metropolitan trial model
- Teletrials enabled equitable access across geographically dispersed regions



Key Operational Challenges

- Remote medication delivery:
 - regulatory requirements
 - temperature-controlled transport
 - timely delivery to very remote locations
- Coordinating clinical oversight across:
 - metropolitan investigators
 - local medical officers
 - palliative care teams
 - regional nursing staff



Adapting Trial Delivery

- Flexible visit schedules
- Telehealth-based assessments
- Modified regional data collection processes
- Local nurses acting as primary patient contacts



Key Learnings & Outcomes

- Research in rural and remote settings can be safe, ethical, and protocol-compliant
- Nurses were essential partners in successful trial delivery and patient support
- Important learning: supporting sites without established research nursing infrastructure
- Opportunity to improve access for Indigenous and underserved populations



High-quality palliative care research can be delivered equitably across Queensland when local teams are empowered through teletrial partnerships.

The real impact

Medicinal cannabis trial reaches remote palliative care patients

Cancer patients in Queensland's most remote communities now have access to clinical trials of emerging therapies, including medicinal cannabis, through an innovative teletrial model led by Mater Palliative and Supportive Care Research.

The MedCan 3 trial, coordinated by Professor Phillip Good, is investigating the use of THC and CBD oil to manage cancer-related symptoms such as pain, nausea, and appetite loss.

The study will evaluate the effectiveness of medicinal cannabis in improving quality of life for patients undergoing cancer treatment.

Jacqueline Poole, a 53-year-old patient from Aramac, 127km from Longreach, became the most remote Queenslander to participate in an investigational drug trial.

Diagnosed with stage 4 endometrial sarcoma earlier this year, she travelled to Mater Hospital Brisbane for treatment and subsequently enrolled in the trial, describing the experience as "life-changing," noting improved cognition, reduced nausea, and greater comfort.

With support from Mater, the MedCan 3 teletrial enables investigational therapies to be administered locally, expanding access to research and symptom management for rural patients.



How to refer

Mater Palliative and Supportive Care Research

📞 0434 856 156

✉ PalCareResearch@mater.org.au

Learn more



Jacqueline Poole with Mater Clinical Trial Coordinator Georgie Huggett.

primary focus
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From a second-hand microscope in the 1920s to cutting-edge clinical trials in 2026, today on International Clinical Trials Day, we are celebrating a century of research that is shaping the future of healthcare at Mater.

At the heart of this legacy are the extraordinary patients who make medical breakthroughs possible, like 98-year-old Veronica Leeman.

Diagnosed with advanced lung cancer in 2020, Veronica was gifted five priceless years with her family thanks to immunotherapy—a standard of care only made possible by past clinical trial participants. Today, she is paying it forward as one of the oldest teletrial participants on record, enrolling in the MedCan3 trial to help researchers evaluate medicinal cannabis for advanced cancer symptom management.

Today, we celebrate the researchers who lead these studies, the past patients whose clinical trials participation gave Mrs Leeman more time, and the incredible current patients who are paving the way for the treatments of tomorrow.

Learn more 📌 <https://lnkd.in/gReNQxBM>



Thank you



Australian Teletrial Program
Access to clinical trials, closer to home



Australian Government
Department of Health
National Health and Medical Research Council



Thank you to Luca Douglas for providing the outback images used

