

Facilitating a Regional Cancer Education program in the Grampians Region of Victoria

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Background

The Clinical Nurse Educator in Oncology, based at the Centre for Education and Training (CET) Grampians Health (GH) Ballarat, has supported workforce education and training in cancer care across the Grampians region. To meet this remit, an annual target to deliver 75% educational events at GH Ballarat, with the remaining 25% to the greater Grampians region, has been set.

Meeting this target has had its challenges given the restrictions associated with Covid-19, the large geographical area, and the multiple and diverse health services located throughout the service area. Fortunately, the educational infrastructure within CET has been created to support equity of staff access to education using a number of modalities and innovative funding streams.

Aim

To evaluate the CNE in Oncology role in promoting equity of access to cancer education across the Grampians region.

Methods

Various data points were retrospectively audited to establish the following:

- Number of participants attending,
- Number of events and location,
- Educational format used.

Results

- From April 2022 to April 2023, a total of 175 educational events were delivered. Of these, 145 events (82.8%), were conducted at GH Ballarat, with 30 events (17.2%) conducted in the wider Grampians sub – region,
- A total of 1016 healthcare professionals participated in the education provided from the Grampians Region. Seven hundred and fifty five (or 74.3%) attended at GH – Ballarat, with two hundred and sixty one (or 25.7%) attending in the wider Grampians sub – region,
- A number of engaging educational formats were used including, didactic study days, hybrid clinical skills workshops and online webinar presentations, with topics ranging from the care of central lines to specialist topics in cancer care.

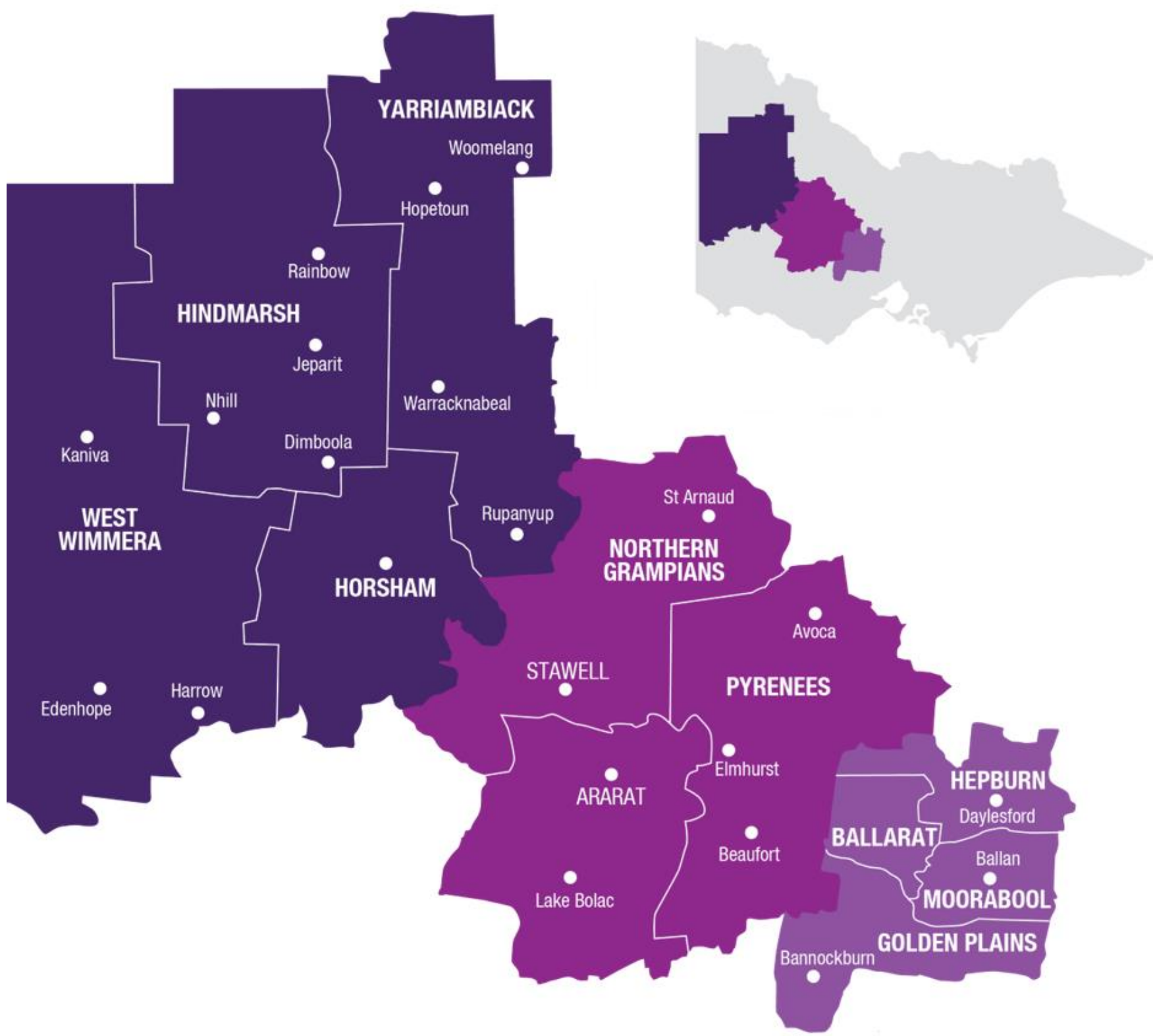
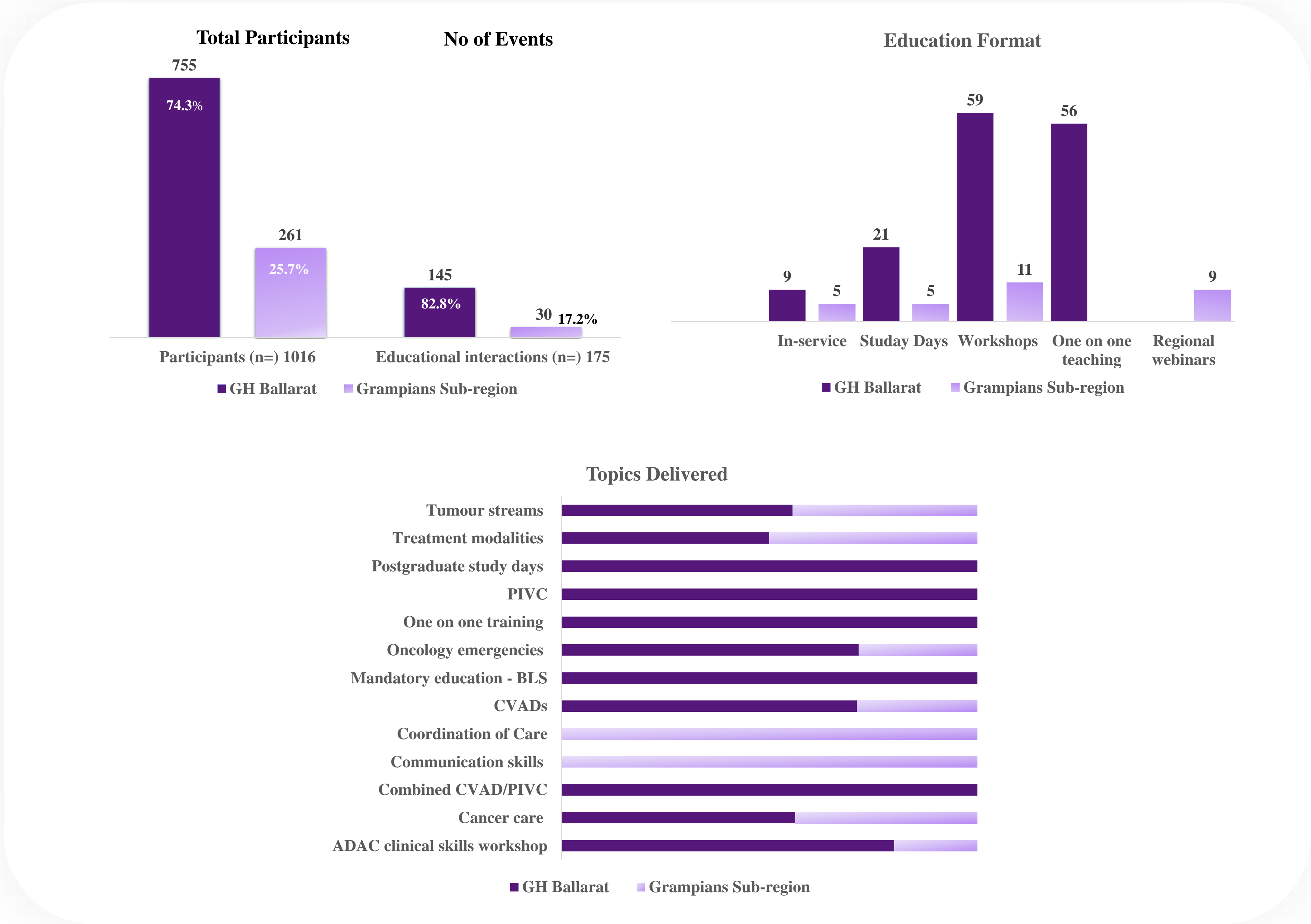


Conclusions

While the number of events delivered to the wider Grampians Region narrowly missed the set target of 25%, these events were nonetheless well attended as demonstrated by the 25.7% participant rate.

Educational infrastructure, such as the Highway Education Model, and online platforms (such as MS Teams), greatly assisted in staff access to education provided throughout the region.

The CNE Oncology role will continue to provide an education program that is responsive to the needs of the Grampians workforce using the available educational framework and IT platforms to optimise equity of access.



The Grampians Region of Victoria:

- Has 11 Local Government Agencies,
- Covers almost 48,000 square kilometres,
- Has a total population of 243,909.

References

Women’s Health Grampians. (2018). *Annual Report 2018-19*. Retrieved from https://whg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/WHG-Annual-Report-final_single-pages-2019-web.pdf

