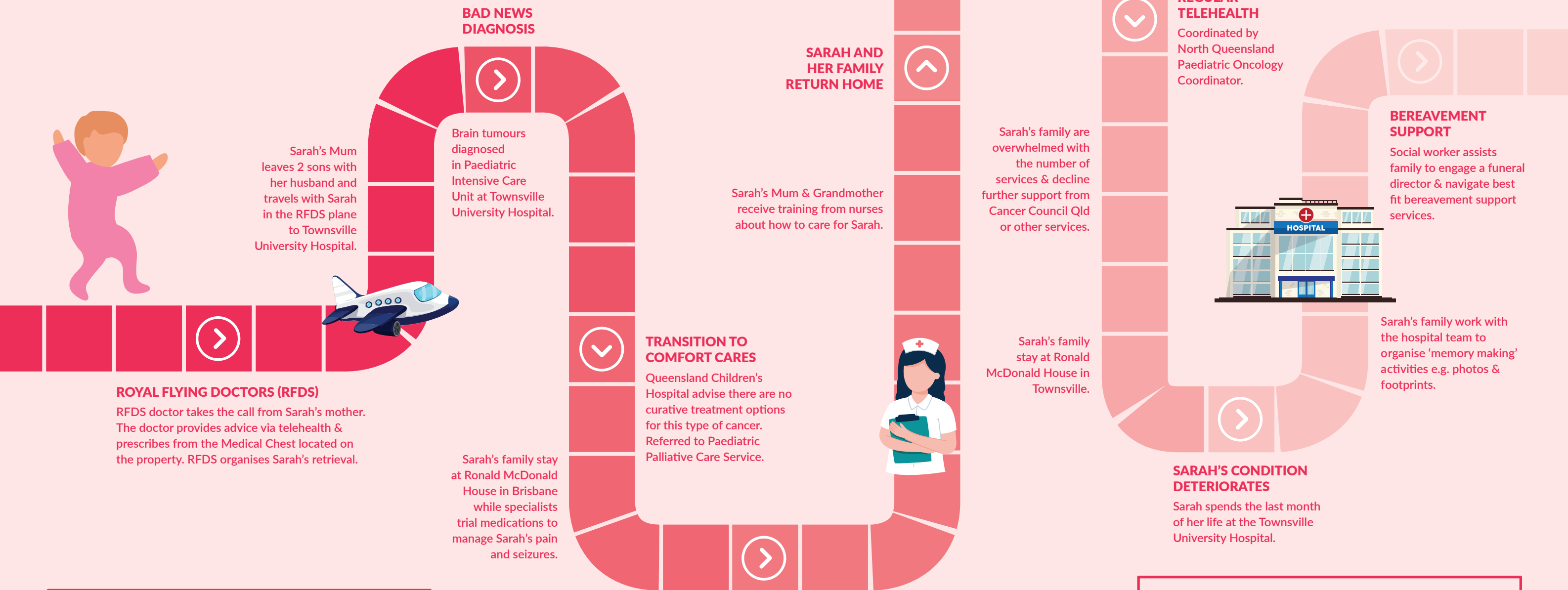


Sarah's journey

Flinders LGA – Inoperable Brain Tumours

Sarah is an 18 month old girl who lives with her mother, father and two older brothers on a very remote property in the Flinders Shire. One day when Sarah's mum was giving her a bath she had a prolonged seizure. Sarah's mother and oldest brother used the satellite phone to call the Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS) to manage the seizure using the medical chest on their property. Following admission to the Townsville University Hospital and transfer to Queensland Children's Hospital, Sarah is living with inoperable, malignant brain tumours.



Key Themes:

- Remote location
- Financial stresses
- Who will manage the property?
- Sibling care, support & schooling
- Overwhelming number of services involved
- Return home requires family to be trained in cares

DISCHARGE PLANNING

Transferred to TUH Paediatric Oncology ward. NQ Oncology Coordinator Nurse and Social Worker are primary contacts for family.

Potential issues/barriers:

- Care & service coordination
- Access to resources including availability of Queensland Retrieval Services aircraft & crew, beds at each hospital & staffing within all services
- Any changes to medications or feeds will be delayed due to coordination/transport
- Access to reliable internet at home



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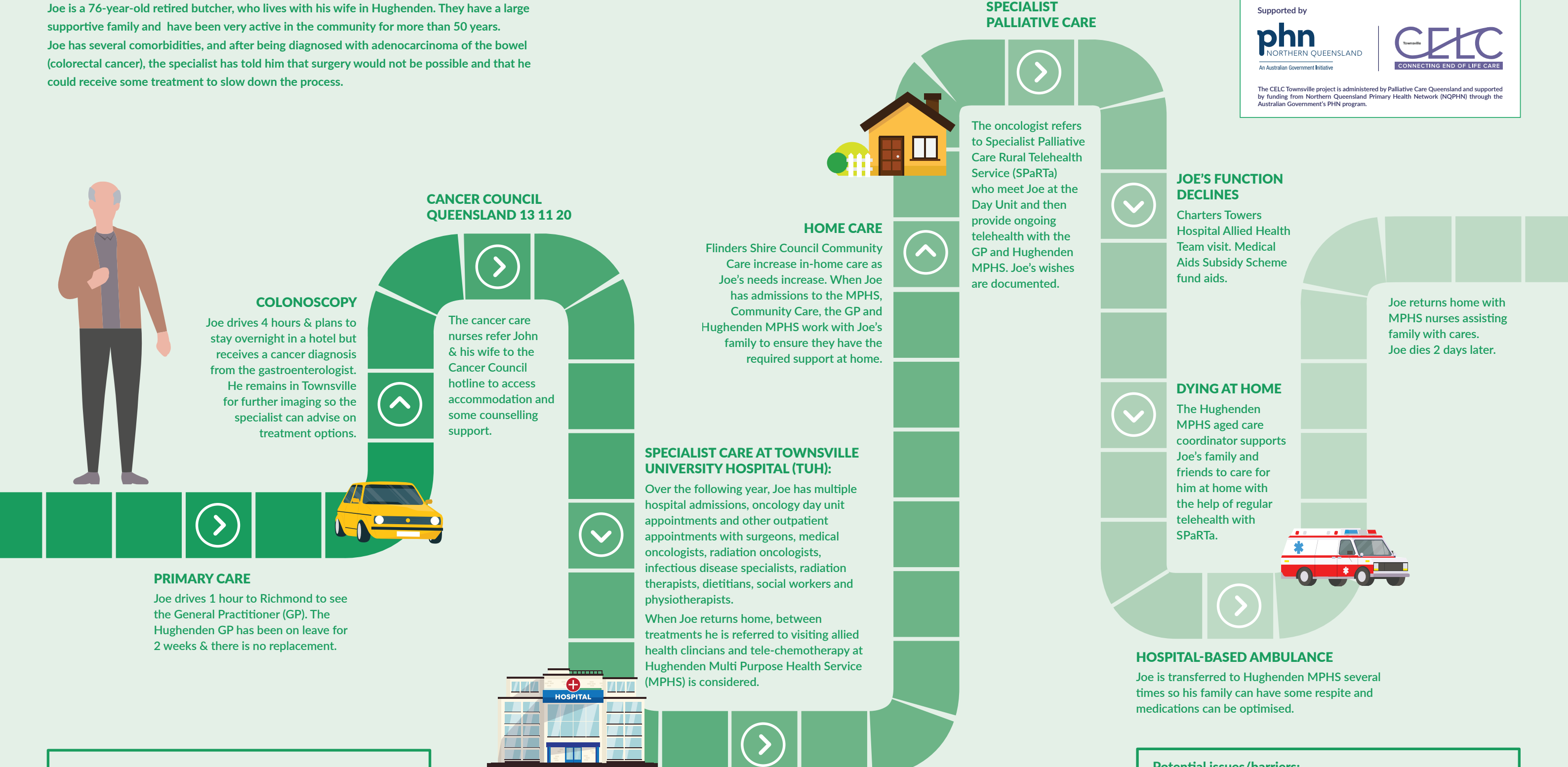


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Joe's journey

Flinders LGA – Colorectal Cancer

Joe is a 76-year-old retired butcher, who lives with his wife in Hughenden. They have a large supportive family and have been very active in the community for more than 50 years. Joe has several comorbidities, and after being diagnosed with adenocarcinoma of the bowel (colorectal cancer), the specialist has told him that surgery would not be possible and that he could receive some treatment to slow down the process.



Key Themes:

- Hughenden is a one doctor town
- Rural workforce shortages
- Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme
- 400km from tertiary hospital
- Use of Retrieval Services Queensland
- Visiting allied health services
- Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme

Potential issues/barriers:

- Travel to Townsville HHS for biopsy/imaging that can't be done in Hughenden
- Travel & accommodation required
- Where is his preferred place of care?
- His wife's capability of caring for him
- Letters from treating team to GP may take several days (posted, not emailed)
- GP not always available for shared-consults with specialist teams



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