



Communiqué **WA Country Health Service Board**

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the Board's regional engagement meetings in the Wheatbelt Region's north western area.

February 2019 Board Meeting

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Board held its February 2019 Board meeting in the Wheatbelt north western area. Staff engagement meetings were held at the local health services in Chittering, Moora and Jurien Bay.

Meetings with the District Health Advisory Council and Local Health Advisory Group Chairs, along with a stakeholder meeting were held in Moora. The Board was overwhelmed with the turnout with people travelling from afar as Pingelly and Narrogin. It is one of the highlights of the WACHS Board to get out amongst the communities to hear and discuss key issues relating to health. These meetings provide an opportunity for the Board



members to meet with local people and hear firsthand the important issues and priorities in their communities.

The Board heard about several important initiatives being held in the region including the improvement Aged Care Assessment Team timeframes, supporting country people manage their weight through the HEAL program and the Wheatbelt midwifery program were among some of the programs highlighted.



Key topics discussed with the Board included access to mental health services and beds, aged care and dementia care, patient transport, collaboration with local government on doctor recruitment and subacute services. The Board welcomed the participants' interest in the provision of health services in their communities and will undertake further investigations to identify opportunities for improvement in these areas.

The Board appreciated the planning and support provided by Sean Conlon Regional Director, the regional and hospital staff in scheduling these meetings. The Board also wishes to thank

the staff and local community representatives for making the time in their busy schedules to meet with the Board and share their views.



Stakeholder meeting held in Moora

The Board meeting was held in Jurien Bay on Friday the 22 February 2019.

Attendance

Prof. Neale Fong (Chair)
Ms. Wendy Newman (Deputy Chair)
Mr. Michael Hardy (via VC)
Mr. Alan Ferris
Dr Daniel Heredia (via VC)

Ms. Mary Anne Stephens
Dr Diane Mohen
Ms. Meredith Waters
Dr Kim Isaacs
Ms. Kelly Howlett

Apologies – Nil

In Attendance –Jeff Moffet CE

Key Matters for Decision

- The Board noted and endorsed that the 2018/19 MYR Service Agreement deed amendment with the Department of Health had been supported by the Finance Committee and signed under seal by the Board Chair.
- The Board noted that five submissions under the Commonwealth's Community Health and Hospital Program had been reviewed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Board Chair.
- The final draft of the WACHS Maternal and Newborn Strategy following internal and external consultation was endorsed by the Board.
- The Board endorsed an application to the Department of Health to establish a \$45 per day hostel accommodation fee in the WA Health Fees and Charges Manual.

Key Matters for Discussion

- The Chief Executive's report provided an update on monthly performance, projections and key developments within WACHS over the past month;
- The meeting included a video conference with the Chief Psychiatrist where a range of issues were discussed in relation to the positive improvements made by WACHS in delivering country mental health services and further opportunities to further enhance service quality.
- The revised WACHS Strategic Plan was reviewed and discussed.
- The Board discussed the recommendations in the Joint Select Committee's "End of Life Choices" report, particularly in relation to recommendations 12 and 13 which are specific to WACHS and regional services.
- The public feedback from the consultation on draft WA Country Ambulance Strategy (CAS) was reviewed and discussed. The Board noted that overall there was strong support for the CAS.
- Discussion was held on the Aged Care Royal Commission survey and the development of WACHS's submission relating to the provision of aged care services in country Western Australia.
- The recommendations in the Coroner's report on 13 Deaths of Children and Young Persons in the Kimberley Region were reviewed and discussion held on the development of responses and action plans, noting that the recommendations required multi-agency and broader community involvement.

Summary of Items for Noting

- WACHS Organisational Standing Reports including:
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Monthly Dashboard Report
 - Workforce Assurance and Compliance Monthly Dashboard Report
 - Finance and Resources Monthly Board Dashboard
 - Health Service Performance Report (October 2018)
 - Audit and Risk Report (August 2018)
 - Key Projects and Initiatives Report (August 2018)
 - Quarterly WACHS Workforce Dashboard (Q2)

- Quarterly 2018/19 Safety and Quality Report Quarter 2
- General Items for noting included:
 - Department of Finance survey on Government Expenditure on Outsourced Internal Audit Services – WACHS Response
 - Minister for Health's proposed Employee Engagement Survey questionnaire

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Perth on 29 March 2019.

Professor Neale Fong

Chair, WA Country Health Service Board

28 February 2019