



Communiqué **WA Country Health Service Board**

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the Board's regional engagement meetings in the Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions.

24 – 25 October 2019 Board Meeting

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Board travelled to the Wheatbelt and Great Southern on 24 and 25 October 2019, holding meetings and forums in Williams, Kojonup, Katanning and Narrogin.

The Board had the opportunity to visit the Williams Health Centre, refurbished through the \$300 million Southern Inland Health Initiative capital works program. The Board met with Wheatbelt Regional Director Sean Conlan along with local staff and inspected the facilities, where Williams' artist Georgina Finlayson's artwork depicting scenery from the local countryside is proudly displayed as three rust-look steel panels.



The Board, RD Wheatbelt and staff at Williams Health Centre



The Board, RD Great Southern and staff at Kojonup Health Service

In Kojonup, Great Southern Regional Director Geraldine Ennis and local staff provided a tour of the facility and Leschenaultia House. The Board also heard from Nurse Manager Jean Daly, who gave a presentation on her Leading Great Care course assignment about the Kojonup Auditing Teams Initiative.

The Board also toured the newly redeveloped Katanning Health Service, which benefited from a \$32 million refurbishment, and visited the new state-of-the-art emergency department, refurbished surgical services unit and new outpatient and primary care facilities. An engagement session was also held with local stakeholders from Katanning, including DHAC members. Doctors Helen van Gessel and Kirsten Auret also presented key initiatives currently occurring in the Great Southern region, including effective treatment and elimination of Hepatitis C and the WA End of Life and Palliative Care Strategy 2018-2028.

The Board also met with the Shire of Katanning and local senior WA Police officers. Mr. Alep Mydie, a local Katanning businessman, also spoke of his journey from Christmas Island and the history of Christmas and Cocos Islanders residing in Katanning. You can watch Mr. Mydie on the SBS program "*Where Are You Really From?*" [here](#).

Engagement sessions were also held in Narrogin, where the Board met with local staff, clinicians and stakeholders, followed by a tour of the impressive \$50 million redevelopment of Narrogin Health Service. The Board had the opportunity to visit the new outpatient building, maternity suites, inpatient ward, and chemotherapy services.

These important stakeholder and staff engagement sessions were an opportunity for the Board to inform local stakeholders and staff of the recently released WACHS Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 and its key priorities, as well as hear directly regarding priorities and key issues for the local health services.

The Board would like to acknowledge and thank staff in the Great Southern and Wheatbelt regions for their strong commitment to not only delivering integrated and comprehensive health services to their local communities, but for also building strong relationships with local service partners and embracing new and emerging technology.

The Board would also like to thank Geraldine Ennis, Regional Director Great Southern, and Sean Conlan, Regional Director Wheatbelt and their dedicated teams for organising and hosting the Board's meetings over the two day regional engagement visit.

The Board meeting was held in Narrogin on Friday 25 October 2019.

Attendance

Prof. Neale Fong (Chair)

Ms. Wendy Newman (Deputy Chair)

Mr. Alan Ferris

Dr. Daniel Heredia

Ms. Kelly Howlett (via VC)

Ms. Mary Anne Stephens

Dr. Diane Mohen

Ms. Meredith Waters

Apologies

Dr. Kim Issacs

In Attendance

Mr. Jeffrey Moffet (Chief Executive)

Key Matters for Decision

- The Board endorsed the WACHS Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-24.

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 Board was updated on and discussed the WACHS Your Voice In Health Survey Quarter 1 Progress Report 2019-2020 to the Minister for Health.
- The 2020 Board and Committee meeting schedule was developed and discussed, and is pending final feedback.
- The Board noted that Professor Hart of the Curtin Medical School (CMS) extended an invitation to visit the Bentley and Kalgoorlie CMS facilities and discussed the proposed visits for 2020.
- The Small Hospitals Consultation paper was discussed, along with the next steps required to support and develop a strategy.

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 Report
 - Audit and Risk Report (September 2019)
 - Key Projects and Initiatives Report (September 2019).
 - Quarterly Public Confidence and Reputational Risk Report (Quarter 3)
- General items for noting included:
 - AHIW Embargo Release – Rural and Remote Health

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Perth on 22 November 2019.

Professor Neale Fong

Chair, WA Country Health Service Board

7 November 2019