



# Communiqué **WA Country Health Service Board**

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the recent WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Board meeting.

## **30 October 2020**

The Board meeting was held in Perth at WACHS Central Office.

The meeting provided the Board with an opportunity to discuss several key matters, including place-based care perspectives, initiatives and strategies being undertaken to increase our Aboriginal workforce, the 2020-21 Budget allocations for WACHS, and the work undertaken to outline WACHS structural budget deficit and ongoing budget management challenges to the Cost Driver Project Working Group.

During the meeting, reports were received from the Safety and Quality and Audit and Risk Committees who both met on 13 October 2020, and the Finance Committee who met on 26 October 2020.

At the conclusion of the Board Meeting, the Minister for Health and the Acting Director General met with the WACHS Board to discuss key issues affecting country health services. The Minister highlighted the recent announcements for significant funding for WACHS projects, including the Bunbury redevelopment, Command Centre, and the Country Ambulance Strategy. The Board had an opportunity to highlight key WACHS strategic priorities to the Minister, including the development of a workforce strategy, small hospital sustainability and associated budget risks, the Mental Health Cultural Governance Framework, and the development of an Environmental Sustainability Framework.

## **Attendance**

Dr. Neale Fong (Board Chair) (via VC)  
Ms. Wendy Newman (Deputy Board Chair)  
Mr. Alan Ferris  
Mr. Paul Fitzpatrick  
Dr. Daniel Heredia (via VC – items 2.1 to 7.2)

Ms. Kelly Howlett (via VC)  
Dr. Kim Isaacs  
Dr. Diane Mohen  
Ms. Mary Anne Stephens  
Ms. Meredith Waters (via VC)

## **Apologies**

Nil

## **In Attendance**

Mr. Jeffrey Moffet (Chief Executive)  
Ms. Margaret Denton (Chief Operating Officer)

## **Key Matters for Decision**

- Nil this meeting.

## **Key Matters for Discussion**

- The Chief Executive (CE) tabled a refreshed CE report, which in addition to providing an update on monthly performance, projections and key developments within WACHS over the past month, also highlighted current deeper insights into strategic and operational matters.
- The Board endorsed the 2021 Board Meeting Schedule.
- The Board received high-level updates on:
  - WACHS' Medical and Nursing workforce status;
  - Initiatives being undertaken to innovate WACHS' recruitment processes;
  - Lessons arising from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - A comprehensive update on WACHS' Aboriginal Health programs; and
  - The draft Operational Plan to implement the WACHS Strategic Plan 2019-24;

## **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 Reports (September – October 2020);
  - Audit and Risk Committee Quarterly Update to the Board (Quarter 1, 2020-21).
- General items for noting included:
    - The Board singled out special thanks to Russell Simpson, Marg Denton and Melissa Vernon for their contribution to papers presented to the meeting.
    - WACHS Aboriginal workforce statistics
    - Legal risks and proposed actions for land lease agreements
    - HSPR Report – October 2020

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Onslow on 27 November 2020.

Dr Neale Fong  
**BOARD CHAIR**

**17 November 2020**