



Communiqué **WA Country Health Service Board**

This communiqué highlights key discussions from the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Board's regional engagement meetings in the Wheatbelt region.

23-24 July 2020

The second regional engagement visit for the Board for 2020 kicked off in the Wheatbelt region with the Board travelling to visit WACHS sites in Merredin, Southern Cross, Bruce Rock, Kununoppin, Kellerberrin and Cunderdin.

The Board split up into three (3) groups and travelled to the smaller sites of Southern Cross, Kununoppin and Bruce Rock to meet with local staff and hear about important issues, and tour the facilities. At each site, there were also opportunities to present regional service achievement awards to several long-standing staff members.



Board Chair Dr Neale Fong and
Board Member Mr Alan Ferris



The Board also visited Merredin Hospital, with Acting Regional Director Rachele Ferrari and local staff providing a tour of newly constructed and up-and-coming facilities on hospital grounds.

Staff engagement sessions were also held at Merredin Hospital, commencing with a breakfast held with local clinicians and staff. Board Members also heard about notable WACHS Wheatbelt initiatives including the introduction of the 'Employee Recognition Program' following the 2019 Your Voice in Health survey; the housing and accommodation review and the challenges facing the Wheatbelt in response to COVID-19 and staffing; and an overview of the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Health Service's 'Ngamari Free' (smoke free) campaign and culturally appropriate signage and social media resources created for COVID-19.



Merredin District Hospital

Both the staff and stakeholder sessions allowed the Board to highlight the WACHS Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 directions and discuss key issues for the local health services and community groups.

The drive back to Perth also provided the Board with opportunities to visit the newly constructed Cunderdin Health Centre and upgraded Kellerberrin Memorial Health Service, with Board members receiving a tour of the facilities and holding meetings with local staff and stakeholders.

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The Board would like to acknowledge and thank staff in the Wheatbelt region for their strong commitment to delivering comprehensive health services to their local communities. The Board would like to thank Rachele Ferrari and the dedicated Wheatbelt team for organising and hosting the Board meeting and engagements over the two day visit.

The Board meeting was held in Merredin on 24 July 2020.

Attendance

Dr. Neale Fong (Chair)

Ms. Wendy Newman (Deputy Chair)

Mr. Alan Ferris

Mr. Paul Fitzpatrick

Dr. Daniel Heredia

Ms. Kelly Howlett

Dr. Kim Isaacs (via VC)

Dr. Diane Mohen

Ms. Mary Anne Stephens

Ms. Meredith Waters

Apologies

Nil

In Attendance

Mr. Jeffrey Moffet (Chief Executive), Rachele Ferrari (A/Regional Director) observing.

Key Matters for Decision

- The revised WACHS Strategic Risks and minor amendments to the WACHS Risk Management Policy.

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.
- An update on WACHS' response and preparedness to COVID-19 was provided to the Board.
- The Board discussed and set the parameters for the upcoming Deep Dive session into small hospitals.
- The Board received briefings on:
 - The validation of workers compensation claims data, strategies to manage workplace injuries and loss time at work and the building of relationships with Risk Cover;
 - An update on the St John Ambulance contract negotiations and the Country Ambulance Strategy.

Summary of Items for Noting

- WACHS Organisational Standing Reports including:
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Monthly Dashboard Report.
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Monthly Exception Report.
 - Workforce Assurance and Compliance Monthly Dashboard Report.
 - Finance and Resources Monthly Board Dashboard Report.
 - Detailed Risk Report as at 30 June 2020.
 - Progress Summary against the Audit Plan Report as at 30 June 2020.
- General items for noting included:
 - Directors & Officers Liability Insurance policies 2020-21.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Kununurra on 21 August 2020.

Dr Neale Fong

Chair, WA Country Health Service Board

10 August 2020