



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 Great Southern region.

27 – 28 February 2020

The first regional engagement visit for the Board for 2020 kicked off in the Great Southern region where meetings and forums were held in Albany, Denmark, and Mount Barker.

The Board had the opportunity to tour Albany Health Campus again, meeting Acting Regional Director Jan Cook and local staff to inspect newly constructed and up-and-coming facilities on campus grounds.

The Board visited the Mental Health Step Up Step Down service, operated by Neami National, to see first-hand how the service is improving options for people with mental health issues in the Great Southern region. There was also an opportunity to walk through the Albany Community Hospice, where invaluable inpatient palliative care services are delivered, and the Albany Cancer Accommodation, which provides patients and their escorts with comfortable motel style accommodation during their cancer treatments at Albany Health Campus. Board Members were able to view where the specialised radiation oncology bunker, known as the Linac Suite, will be constructed in order to deliver oncology services closer to home for Great Southern patients.



WACHS Board Members, the WACHS Chief Executive and local staff at the Albany Step up Step down service.

The Board travelled to Denmark Health Service, the residential aged care facility Blue Wren Lodge, and to Mount Barker to visit the Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service. At both facilities, Board members had the opportunity to talk with local staff members and hear about important local issues.

Staff engagement sessions were also held at Albany Health Campus and at the WACHS Great Southern regional head office. Board Members heard about notable WACHS Great Southern initiatives including the 2019 Pitch You Pilot winner 'Memory Clinic', Best Medication practices and the Penicillin Allergy Project. The Great Southern region also participates in daily Safety Huddles, and the Board were able to observe sites across the region dialing in and participating in the 10 minute briefing session.

The sessions were also an opportunity for the Board to inform local stakeholders and staff of the WACHS Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 and key issues for the local health services and community groups.

The Board would like to acknowledge and thank staff in the Great Southern region for their strong commitment to delivering integrated and comprehensive health services to their local communities in conjunction with local service partners. The Board would like to thank Jan Cook and the dedicated Great Southern team for organising and hosting the Board meeting and engagements over the two day visit.

The Board meeting was held in Albany on 27 February 2020.

Attendance

Prof. Neale Fong (Chair) (via VC)
Ms. Wendy Newman (Deputy Chair)
Mr. Alan Ferris

Dr. Daniel Heredia
Ms. Kelly Howlett
Ms. Mary Anne Stephens

Dr. Diane Mohen
Ms. Meredith Waters
Dr. Kim Isaacs (via VC)

Apologies

Nil

In Attendance

Mr. Jeffrey Moffet (Chief Executive), Jan Cook (A/Regional Director) observing.

Key Matters for Decision

- Nil.

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 received briefings on:
 - The proposed approach to deliver WACHS' Strategic Plan and the various service strategies.
 - An overview of the recommendations and next steps of the Bunbury Medical Workforce review.
 - The contract renewal process for the delivery of road based patient transport services.
 - WACHS Fire Safety Management arising from a review of the bushfire preparedness.
 - An overview of the new function established to lead WACHS' environmental sustainability.
 - Progress against the WACHS-wide Your Voice in Health Survey Action Plan.
 - Progress made against the Methamphetamine Action Plan.
 - The 2018–19 Annual Report for WACHS' Action Plan to Implement the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015–2030.

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 (30 November 2019 – 19 February 2020).
 - Quarterly Report to the Board (1 October – 31 December 2019).
 - Reputational Risk Dashboard (1 October – 31 December 2019).
 - Key Projects and Initiatives Report (25 November 2019 – 24 January 2020).
 - Quarterly 2019-20 Safety and Quality Report (Quarter 2).
- General items for noting included:
 - BHP Newman Community Project Contract.
 - Reportable Fringe Benefits Amounts – Update.
 - HaDSCO 2018-19 Complaints Card.
 - 2018-19 Report on WACHS Mental Health Annual Performance.
 - Letter to Federal Minister for Indigenous Persons – Implementing ETS in remote sites.
 - Letter to Federal Minister for Health – Concerns with MBS arrangements for Telehealth.
 - Health Service Performance Report (December 2019).

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Perth on 27 March 2020.

Dr Neale Fong
Chair, WA Country Health Service Board
17 March 2020