



BOARD COMMUNIQUÉ

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

26 and 27 August 2021

The Board travelled to the Wheatbelt region for their fourth regional engagement visit for 2021.

Board Members split up across the sites of Dalwallinu, Wongan Hills, Wyalkatchem, Goomalling and Northam, and undertook engagement sessions with local staff and key stakeholders across the two (2) days to listen to and discuss relevant issues and good news stories happening across these local communities.

The Board were appreciative of being able to meet with local staff and community members at these engagement sessions to talk through shared ideas and to hear about challenges being experienced.

Additionally, the Board undertook tours of these sites and heard about key initiatives, issues and achievements happening across WACHS Wheatbelt, including an update on the region's staff housing initiative.

The delivery of aged care services remains a significant topic of interest to stakeholders within the Wheatbelt. The Board also held a meeting in Northam with District Health Advisory Council (DHAC) members to further understand some of the challenges associated with local community members receiving aged care services within regional towns of the Wheatbelt, and to discuss future opportunities to collaboratively escalate and address these concerns.



The Board Chair, Board Members and Wheatbelt Regional Executive and local staff at Wyalkatchem



Board Members, the Chief Executive and Wheatbelt Regional Executive and local staff at Dalwallinu

Across the region, the Board saw many examples of high quality patient-centred care being delivered by our dedicated staff to our country patients. This is even more apparent during this significant period in which demand and workforce pressures are being experienced across the state, and the Board would like to commend WACHS Wheatbelt staff for their ongoing commitment to supporting our local communities in receiving care close to home.

The Board would like to thank Rachele Ferrari, along with the Wheatbelt team, for organising and hosting the Board meeting and many successful engagement sessions over the two day visit.

The Board would also like to acknowledge the significant contribution made by outgoing Board member Ms Meredith Waters, and would like to wish her well on her future endeavours.

The Board meeting was held in Northam on Friday, 27 August 2021.

Members Attending

Dr. Neale Fong (Board Chair)
Ms. Wendy Newman (Deputy Board Chair)
Mr. Alan Ferris
Mr. Paul Fitzpatrick
Dr. Daniel Heredia

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

In Attendance

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

Apologies

Nil

Observer

Ms. Rachele Ferrari (Acting Regional Director)

Key Matters for Decision

- The Board provided their endorsement of:
 - The Annual Governance Attestation for 2020-21 to be submitted to the Minister for Health.
 - The National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards Attestation for 2021.
 - The Annual Audit Plan for 2021-22 for WACHS.
 - WACHS submission to the Ministerial Taskforce Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents;
 - WACHS submission to the Standing Committee – Parliamentary Inquiry into the delivery of ambulance services in Western Australia.

Key Matters for Discussion

- The Chief Executive's report provided an update on performance, projections and key developments within WACHS over the past month.
- The Board were briefed on the industrial action occurring at Hedland Health Campus and the work underway by WACHS to address concerns raised;
- The Board were provided with an update on patient transport matters within WACHS, including the implementation of the Country Ambulance Strategy initiatives, the ongoing work with RFDS and SJA, and the public inquiry into the State's aeromedical services.
- An overview of the internal analysis undertaken against the Your Voice in Health Employee Engagement Survey results was provided;
- The Board received a high level update on WACHS' response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, and discussed WACHS' role within the community in providing aged care services.
- An update was provided on WACHS' progress on the COVID-19 vaccination program, and celebrated the milestone of 110,000 vaccinations delivered across country WA.

*WACHS Board Members,
Wheatbelt A/Regional Director,
Regional Executive and local staff
at Wongan Hills*



Summary of Standing Items for Discussion and Noting

- WACHS organisational standing reports including:
 - Health Service Performance Report, June 2021
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Dashboard Report.
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Quarterly Report – Quarter 4, 2020-21.
 - Workforce, Assurance and Compliance Dashboard Report.
 - Audit and Risk Committee Quarterly Report – Quarter 4, 2020-21.
 - Finance and Resources Dashboard Report.
 - Detailed Risk Review Report.
 - Progress Summary against the Audit Plan Report.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Perth on 22 October 2021.

Dr Neale Fong
BOARD CHAIR

20 September 2021