



BOARD COMMUNIQUÉ

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

18 and 19 March 2021

The second regional engagement visit for 2021 was to the Midwest region, where the Board visited both Geraldton Health Campus and Exmouth Health Service.

The Board toured both sites and surrounding facilities including staff accommodation, and also had an opportunity to meet with staff and receive presentations about key initiatives and achievements across the region.

The Geraldton team presented an overview of the Mental Health reform project highlights, whilst Exmouth staff spoke of the challenges in delivering health care in communities such as Exmouth and Coral Bay, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board also held a dedicated stakeholder meeting in Geraldton, where local community members and representatives from the surrounding shires and key service providers had an opportunity to discuss relevant matters pertinent to their communities.

Additionally, the Board were able to provide the community and staff with an overview of the highlights of the WACHS Strategic Plan 2019-24 directions.



(L-R) Board Members Dr Daniel Heredia, Meredith Waters, Acting Regional Director Karen Street, Board Member Kelly Howlett, Exmouth Health Service Coordinator of Nursing Heike Hanes, Board Chair Dr Neale Fong and Board Member Dr Diane Mohen at Exmouth Health Service.

The Board would like to thank all the staff in the Midwest for their enduring commitment to providing patient centred care and accessible health services to their local communities. The Board would also like to thank Karen Street, along with the dedicated regional team, for organising and hosting the Board meeting and engagements over the two day visit.

The Board meeting was held in Exmouth on 19 March 2021.

Members Attending

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

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

In Attendance

Ms. Margaret Denton (A/Chief Executive)

Mr. Robert Pulsford (A/Chief Operating Officer)
(via MS Teams)

Observer

Ms. Karen Street (A/Regional Director)

Apologies

Mr. Jeffrey Moffet (Chief Executive)

Key Matters for Decision

- Nil this meeting.

Key Matters for Discussion

- The Acting 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 work underway to review to WACHS priorities for the year against the context of an unprecedented 12 months and requirements to deliver on significant strategic and state initiative priorities.
- A brief was provided on the State Health Operations Centre (SHOC) concept and the integration of the WACHS Command Centre.
- The Board were provided with an update on WACHS' patient transport initiatives, including the regional ambulance investment and the development of the Acute Patient Transfer Coordination.
- An update on work underway to comprehensively review the recommendations arising from the Royal Commission in Aged Care Safety and Quality and analyse the potential impacts on WACHS was provided.
- A high level brief on the WACHS COVID-19 vaccination program was received.
- The Board noted the positive verbal feedback provided by Australian Council of Healthcare Standards on WACHS' assessment against the National Corporate Program and congratulated WACHS on the achievement.
- A briefing on the project evaluating the impact of specialist medical services delivery by telehealth on patient travel was provided.

Summary of Standing Items for Discussion and Noting

- WACHS Organisational Standing Reports including:
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Dashboard Report.
 - Workforce, Assurance and Compliance Dashboard Report.
 - Finance and Resources Dashboard Report.
 - Detailed Risk Review Report as at 28 February 2021.
 - Progress Summary against the Audit Plan Report as at 28 February 2021.
- Items for noting included:
 - An update on action taken to address concerns in relation to COVID-19 procedures.
 - The Health Service Performance Report for January 2021.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Perth on 26 May 2021.

Dr Neale Fong BOARD CHAIR

22 April 2021



Acting Chief Executive Margaret Denton, Board Chair Dr Neale Fong, and Geraldton stakeholders