



BOARD COMMUNIQUE

This communique highlights key discussions from the recent WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Board meeting and regional engagement visit.

24 – 25 November 2022

The Board travelled to the South West region for the third and final regional engagement visit of the year.

This regional engagement visit provided the Board with opportunities to discuss emerging regional priorities and explore key themes whilst visiting regional sites, and engagement with staff and community stakeholders at Bunbury, Donnybrook, Bridgetown, and Manjimup.

The Board were deeply appreciative of being able to meet with local stakeholders across these towns, and were able to spend time with local government representatives, key service delivery partners and community members to further understand some of the challenges being experienced in the communities and also hear about the many important initiatives underway to support the local community.

Site tours and engagement with staff also occurred at Bunbury Hospital, Bunbury Home Links, Donnybrook Hospital, Warren Health Service and Bridgetown Hospital. Board Members were able to spend time with staff about key issues, challenges, and achievements over the last two to three years, and heard of many examples where staff innovatively and courageously delivered high quality patient centred care to our country patients.

Board Members expressed their gratitude to the hard-working Regional Director, Ms Kerry Winsor, and the South West regional team for facilitating and hosting the Board's meeting and staff and stakeholder engagements over the two-day visit. The Board thanks the South West team for their ongoing dedication and commitment to delivering critical services within the current workforce shortage environment.

The Board meeting was held in Bunbury on Thursday 24 November 2022 at Bunbury Hospital.

Board Members welcomed Mrs Shaneane Weldon to her first meeting as a newly appointed WACHS Board Member, and acknowledged she will bring significant contribution to the Board from her experience in local government in a remote location.

Staff, visitor and contractor safety across WACHS is a key organisational priority and the Board received a detailed update from the Work Health Safety team on the focused work program underway.

The Bunbury Hospital team presented to the Board on key activities and initiatives that continue to be progressed at Bunbury Hospital to support service development and reform. Several key achievements were also highlighted, including the development of the onsite Yarning Circle at the Hospital, the Ambulatory Care move to the Bunbury Homemakers Centre which is receiving positive feedback, and the recognition of the ICU COVID team. The Board congratulated the Bunbury Hospital leadership team for their role in driving positive change, and congratulated the Hospital on its recent acknowledgement as Most Outstanding Regional Hospital at the national Australian Patient Association Awards.

The Board also received a presentation on the Teaching, Training and Research (TTR) Hub located at Bunbury Hospital, and heard the TTR Hub will be critical in driving growth for WACHS' future workforce across the State. The Board acknowledged and congratulated the TTR Hub staff on the work undertaken to develop and implement the TTR hub and provide teaching and training resources to WACHS staff.

The Board Finance, Audit and Risk, and Safety and Quality Committee Chairs provided briefings to the Board on recent Committee meetings held in the month of November.

Members attending

Dr Neale Fong (Board Chair)
Ms Wendy Newman (Deputy Board Chair)
Mr Alan Ferris
Mr Paul Fitzpatrick
Dr Daniel Heredia
Mr. Colin Holt
Ms. Kelly Howlett
Dr Diane Mohen
Ms Mary Anne Stephens
Ms Shaneane Weldon

In Attendance

Mr Jeffrey Moffet (Chief Executive)
Mr Robert Pulsford (A/Chief Operating Officer) (MS Teams)

Apologies

Nil

Observer

Ms Kerry Winsor, Regional Director South West

Key Matters for Decision

- Nil this meeting.

Key Matters for Discussion

- In his report, the Chief Executive provided an update on Executive recruitments and the NSQHS Accreditation Assessment for the Pilbara.
- Discussions also focused on work health and safety matters, workforce and service continuity matters, WACHS achievements and significant progress made on services and innovations throughout a challenging service environment, WACHS medical workforce, and 2023-24 Budget Submissions.
- High level updates were also received on WACHS' performance across the Business Performance, Workforce, Safety and Quality, Finance, Business Services and COVID areas, and WACHS' progress with the COVID-19 vaccination program.

Summary of Standing Items for Discussion and Noting

- WACHS Organisational Standing Reports including:
 - Health Service Performance Report, September 2022
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Report, October 2022
 - Safety and Quality Report for Quarter 1, 2022-23.
 - Workforce, Assurance and Compliance Report, October 2022
 - WACHS Finance, FTE and Activity Report, October 2022
 - Risk Review Report, October 2022
 - Progress Summary against the Audit Plan, October 2022

Items for Noting included

- 2023 WACHS Board Meeting Schedule
- WACHS Aboriginal Workforce Policy Report 2021-2022
- Final submission to the Select Committee Inquiry into Child Development Services – WA Health (combined response)

Next Meeting

The final Board meeting of the year will be held in Perth on Friday, 16 December 2022.

Dr Neale Fong

BOARD CHAIR

12 December 2022