



BOARD COMMUNIQUE

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

26 August 2022

The Board meeting was held in Perth on Friday, 29 July 2022 at WACHS' 189 Wellington Street offices.

PwC were invited to attend the Board meeting to facilitate a discussion on the Board's annual review of WACHS' operational risks. Discussion focused on key risks, and the Board agreed each of these risks were multifaceted and whilst some fall across the strategic space as well, there is a need to further explore them at an operational level.

The next regional engagement visit is scheduled to occur on 27 and 28 October 2022 in the Pilbara region. The Board discussed opportunities for staff and external stakeholder engagement, along with key themes to explore, over the two day visit.

The Board spent time with Paula Chatfield (ED Mental Health) and Russell Simpson (Director Aboriginal Health Strategy) reflecting on the upcoming deep dive into Aboriginal health, scheduled during the October regional engagement visit to the Pilbara. The Board confirmed the deep dive session is to focus on listening to key stakeholders, and evaluating any gaps in processes to help further determine WACHS' role and oversight in effectively supporting and monitoring Aboriginal health outcomes.

The Board and Chief Executive congratulated Bunbury Hospital on receiving the national Outstanding Regional Hospital prize at the Australian Patient Association awards.

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 August.

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 Diane Mohen
Ms Mary Anne Stephens

In Attendance

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

Apologies

Nil

Key Matters for Decision

- The Board endorsed the Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee.
- The Board endorsed the 2021-22 Annual Attestation Statement for the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards Accreditation Scheme.
- The Board endorsed the 2021-22 Annual Attestation of Compliance with the WA Health Internal Audit Policy.
- The Board endorsed the WACHS Audit Charter.
- The Board endorsed the WACHS Board Annual Governance Attestation for 2021-22.

Key Matters for Discussion

- In his report, the Chief Executive provided an update on recent meetings with the Department of Health and Minister for Health; transport matters, and the Bunbury Hospital Redevelopment.

- The Board confirmed number of priorities and focus for the organisation. The Board will hold a workshop in the last quarter of 2022 to further discuss these priorities.
- The proposed Workforce Taskforce, and its expected outcomes and achievements, was also discussed.
- Additional discussions also focused on workforce and service continuity matters, COVID-19, 2023-24 business case priorities, and management of WEST performance.
- 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, June 2022.
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Report, July 2022.
 - Workforce, Assurance and Compliance Report, July 2022.
 - WACHS Finance, FTE and Activity Report, July 2022.
 - Risk Review Report.
 - Progress Summary against the Audit Plan.

Items for Noting included

- Executed 2021-22 Service Agreement between the Mental Health Commission and WACHS.
- An update on suicide prevention strategies in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.
- Board and entity responses to the Public Sector Commission's Annual Collection for Integrity and Conduct.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Port Hedland on 28 October 2022.

Dr Neale Fong

BOARD CHAIR