



BOARD COMMUNIQUÉ

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

25 February 2022

The first Board meeting of the year was held in Perth on Friday, 25 February 2022.

The Board welcomed the Australian Medical Association (AMA) WA President Dr Mark Duncan-Smith and Chief Executive Dr Bennie Ng. The AMA (WA) provided a presentation to the Board on their current issues of interest, and time was spent discussing how to collaboratively address challenges and focus on opportunities to progress issues in relation to the medical workforce.

A governance review has been commissioned by the Minister for Health to examine the operational and practical effectiveness of the governance structures set out in the *Health Services Act 2016 (WA)* and their impact on patient outcomes, prior to the commencement of a statutory review required under the legislation. The Independent Governance Review (IGR) Panel, led by the Chair, Ms Kym Peake, also attended the meeting, and provided a summary overview of this review. The IGR advised the intent is to understand HSP perspectives and receive advice on areas for improvement within the current system, and determine whether the balance is right with current governance arrangements within the WA Health system.

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

Members attending

Dr Neale Fong (Board Chair)
Ms Wendy Newman (Deputy Board Chair) (by MS Teams)
Mr. Alan Ferris
Mr. Paul Fitzpatrick
Dr. Daniel Heredia
Ms. Kelly Howlett (by MS Teams)
Dr. Kim Isaacs
Dr. Diane Mohen
Ms. Mary Anne Stephens (by MS Teams)

In attendance

Jeffrey Moffet (Chief Executive)
Margaret Denton (Chief Operating Officer)

Apologies

Nil

Key Matters for Decision

- The Board endorsed the progression of their quarterly report against the former Minister for Health's Statement of Expectation.
- The Board endorsed the WACHS Aged Care position statement.
- The Board endorsed the WA Rural Academic Training Alliance for Health (WARATAH) proposal.

Key Matters for Discussion

- The Board received a high level update on the COVID-19 current preparedness actions, key challenges, and vaccination program.
- The Board received a high level update on the WA State Ambulance Service Operations Framework and RFDS Rotary Wing proposal.
- An update on the recent successes and achievements and implementation of the WACHS Research and Innovation Strategy was provided.
- Discussion also focused on WACHS' workforce and service continuity matters.
- The Chief Executive's report provided an update on performance, projections, and key developments within WACHS over the past month.

- High level updates were received on WACHS' Performance across the Business Performance, Workforce and Business Services directorates.

Summary of Standing Items for Discussion and Noting

- WACHS Organisational Standing Reports including:
 - Health Service Performance Report, December 2021.
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Dashboard Report, January 2021.
 - Workforce, Assurance and Compliance Dashboard Report, January 2021.
 - Finance, FTE, Activity Report, January 2021.
 - Progress Summary against the Audit Plan Report.

Items for noting included

- Appointment of WACHS General Counsel.
- Update on WACHS procurement governance and assurance.
- Correspondence from the WACHS Board to HSS acknowledging their excellent service delivery.
- Outcome of the MPS Grant Applications.
- Correspondence from HSS relating to the Human Resource Management Information System.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Perth on Friday 25 March 2022.

Dr Neale Fong

BOARD CHAIR

16 March 2022