



BOARD COMMUNIQUÉ

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

15 December 2023

The Board meeting was held in Perth on Friday, 15 December 2023 at WACHS' offices at Grace Vaughan House, Shenton Park.

The Board invited WACHS Executive members to the first hour of the meeting to discuss the strategic objectives of the organisation, and key reforms to strengthen place-based and person centred care models.

At the meeting the Board acknowledged the appointment of Maria Flynn to the role of Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery Services. Maria is a Registered Nurse (UK/Australia) and Midwife (UK) with over 30 years' experience in health and social care. With a diverse range of roles, most recently Maria was Executive Director Nursing, Midwifery and Clinical Governance at the Illawarra and Shoalhaven Local Health District – part of New South Wales Health. She has also served as Executive Director of Nursing and Allied Health for the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. Originally from the UK, Maria also held senior roles across the National Health Service (NHS) and worked in commissioning and performance management as part of the UK Department of Health.



The Board also acknowledged the resignation of Rex O'Rourke and his achievements as the Executive Director Kimberley. Since appointed to the role in mid-2022, Rex has built strong connections and partnerships across the Kimberley, with a focus on delivering culturally safe, person-centred care that promotes better outcomes for some of our most vulnerable communities. Alongside his team, and in collaboration with partner agencies, Rex helped coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and the worst floods in WA's history. Reflecting on his time with WA Country Health Service, Rex said he was privileged to work alongside our amazing staff to deliver better health outcomes for people living in the bush. In the interim while a recruitment process is underway, Ron Wynn will return to WACHS as Acting Executive Director Kimberley.

The Board discussed their recent regional trip to Ravensthorpe, Bremer Bay, Jerramungup, Lake Grace, Kondinin and Corrigin. Covering over 1,500kms over the three days, the Board met with staff, community members, local government and partner organisations to discuss how we can better meet the community's needs through collaborative service delivery.

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 December.



Members attending

Dr Neale Fong (Board Chair)
Ms Wendy Newman (Deputy Board Chair)
Mr Peter Campbell
Mr Alan Ferris
Mr Paul Fitzpatrick
Mrs Jodi Johnston
Mr Colin Holt
Dr Diane Mohen
Dr Catherine Stoddart
Mrs Shaneane Weldon

In Attendance

Mr Jeffrey Moffet, Chief Executive
Mr Rob Pulsford, A/Chief Operating Officer

Apologies

Nil

Key Matters for Decision

- The Board approved WACHS' response to the Minister for Health's Statement of Expectation for quarter one for 2023-24. Service Provider Boards are required to provide a quarterly response to the [Minister for Health's Statement of Expectations](#) which provides an overview of how the Health Service Provider is meeting specific functions and responsibilities in line with the *Health Services Act 2016*.
- The Board approved the 2023-24 Commission Service Agreement (CSA) between WACHS and the Mental Health Commission. The CSA sets out the mental health, alcohol and drug health services to be provided as well as governance information and targets.
- The Board endorsed exploring initiatives to strengthen medical imaging workforce and services, and partnership with metropolitan Health Service Providers.
- The Board approved updates to the WACHS Authorisation Schedule in line with legislative amendments to section 78A of the Health Services Act 2016. An authorisations schedule is a schedule of the functions, duties or powers that the Board, as the governing body of the relevant Health Service Provider, authorises to be carried out by others within the organisation in line with section 70 of the *Health Services Act 2016*.

Key Matters for Discussion

- The Chief Executive provided an update on Executive appointments, meetings with the Department of Health, progress of various inquiries and ongoing key contract negotiations, including engagement with training and tertiary educational institutions to improve attraction and retention of a sustainable workforce.
- The Board received an update on the progress of the Country Health Sustainability Taskforce.
- The Board discussed strategic priorities and areas of focus for the organisation including financial performance, workforce and service continuity matters, and the transition of the 11 Silver Chain services to WACHS.

Summary of Standing Items for Discussion and Noting

- Updates from the Chairs of the Audit and Risk Committee, Finance Committee and Safety and Quality Committee.
- WACHS Organisational Standing Reports including (quarter to date):
 - Finance, FTE and Activity Report October 2023
 - Audit and Risk Report November 2023
 - Safety and Quality Quarterly Report October 2023
 - Workforce Quarterly Report September 2023

Items for Noting included

- Updates were provided on operational and strategic initiatives including work, health and safety, workforce, security, contracts, research programs, aged care and mental health.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Perth on 15 February 2024.

Dr Neale Fong

BOARD CHAIR

December 2023