



# BOARD COMMUNIQUE

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

**24 February 2023**

The Board meeting was held in Albany on 24 February 2023 at Albany Health Campus.

Board members appreciated the opportunity to visit the facility and speak with staff during their visit to the Great Southern as part of their regional engagement program. In addition, the Board toured the Albany radiation oncology facility, as it undergoes the final stages of development. The new facility will provide highly specialised cancer treatment close to home not previously available in the region and is scheduled to be operational by April 2023.

Over the two-day regional visit, Board members travelled to Mount Barker, Denmark, Gnowangerup and Albany, spending time with staff and hearing about challenges and achievements across the region. In addition, important initiatives, including palliative care and voluntary assisted dying services, and paediatric and early years services available in the Great Southern, were also discussed.

The Board also spent time with key stakeholders at the local health sites, listening to and discussing relevant issues, challenges and good news stories happening across these local communities.

The WACHS Board Chair, Chief Executive, Great Southern Regional Executive are pictured left with their recent Certification of Appreciation from the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards. The Great Southern underwent accreditation against the eight NSQHS Standards (2nd edition) in December 2022. The Board extends their congratulations to the Great Southern on their successful assessment.



The WACHS Chief Executive, Board Members and Great Southern staff are pictured outside of the Gnowangerup District Hospital (above).

The Board Chair, on behalf of the Board, thanked retiring Regional Director Geraldine Ennis for her leadership and support in the Great Southern, and wishes her well for her future endeavours. The Board welcomes Evelyn Quinn, an experienced health care leader with extensive experience in the private healthcare sector, to the role.

The Board wishes to extend its thanks and gratitude to Geraldine and Evelyn, and the dedicated staff, for hosting and organising the two-day regional engagement program, and for their ongoing commitment to the health and wellbeing of country patients in the Great Southern communities.

## 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  
Mrs Mary Anne Stephens  
Mrs Shaneane Weldon

## In Attendance

Mr Jeffrey Moffet (Chief Executive)  
Mr Robert Pulsford (A/Chief Operating Officer)  
Ms Evelyn Quinn (RD Great Southern)

## Key Matters for Decision

- The Board approved the 2022-23 Write Off Schedule.

## Key Matters for Discussion

- The Board Chair provided an update on Board member appointments, recent meetings with Health Service Provider (HSP) Board Chairs, and the draft amendments to the Health Services Act 2016 (WA).
- The Chief Executive provided an update on Executive appointments, meetings with the Department of Health, progress of various inquiries and ongoing key contract negotiations.
- The Board discussed several strategic priorities and areas of focus for the organisation, in particular, the key focus on the organisation's work health and safety program.
- The Board received an update on the progress of the Country Health Sustainability Taskforce.
- Additional discussions also focused on workforce and service continuity matters and patient transport matters. A briefing on the status of the WACHS Strategy for Older People 2022-2027 was also provided.
- High level updates were also received on WACHS' performance across the Business Performance, Workforce, Safety and Quality, Finance and Business Services.

## Summary of Standing Items for Discussion and Noting

- WACHS Organisational Standing Reports including:
  - Health Service Performance Report, December 2022.
  - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Report, January 2023.
  - Workforce, Assurance and Compliance Report, January 2023.
  - WACHS Finance, FTE and Activity Report, January 2023.
  - Risk Review Report, January 2023.
  - Progress Summary against the Audit Plan, January 2023.
  - Audit and Risk Committee's Quarterly Report for Quarter 2, 2022-23

## Items for Noting included

- The WA Health and Medical Research Strategy.
- HaDSCO 2021-22 Complaints Report Card.

## Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Perth on 24 March 2023.

**Dr Neale Fong**

**BOARD CHAIR**

February 2023