



# BOARD COMMUNIQUÉ

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

**28 September 2023**

The Board meeting was held in Perth on Thursday, 28 September 2023 at WACHS' offices at Grace Vaughan House (GVH) in Shenton Park.

At this meeting, the Board discussed the recent visit to Karratha in which some members travelled with Executive staff to connect back with local Aboriginal Health Traditional Owners and key stakeholders on areas of action identified during a regional visit to the Pilbara in October 2022. Meeting with local Aboriginal stakeholders provided the Board with a further opportunity to understand the perspectives of local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in the delivery of health and wellbeing services for Aboriginal people in country WA, and to discuss how the WACHS Cultural Governance Framework could be further embedded to improve the safety and quality health outcomes for country Aboriginal people in WA. Key outcomes arising from the session include further investigation into local cultural training options for our locum medical workforce, review of our complaints process, and furthering discussions with our local service delivery partners on shared services.

In addition, the Board were provided with an overview of the many and significant training and employee development programs underway within WACHS, in particular the WACHS Leadership Exploration Development Program (LEAD) program. 20 country health leaders will kick off the program next month, which will run for two (2) years and culminate in a Graduate Diploma. The Board will interact and engage with LEAD participants over the course of the program.

The Board spent time considering the 2019-24 Strategic Plan, and agreed it is timely to commence discussions regarding the review process and consider a refresh of the key strategic issues facing WACHS.

The [WACHS 2022-23 Annual Report](#) is now complete, and serves as a testament to WACHS staff and partnerships right across country WA. This year's theme, "A Year Beyond Compare in Country Healthcare", showcases the amazing innovation and reform WACHS has achieved, all of which could not have done without WACHS staff.

## Members attending

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

## In Attendance

Mr Jeffrey Moffet (Chief Executive)  
Mr Sean Conlan (A/Chief Operating Officer)

## Apologies

Prof Catherine Stoddart

## Key Matters for Decision

- The Board endorsed the WACHS 2022-23 Annual Report out of session, prior to this meeting.
- The Board endorsed the WACHS Audit Charter.
- The Board endorsed the WACHS Fraud and Corruption Control System.
- The Board endorsed the 2024 Board meeting and regional engagement schedule.

## 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.
- The Board discussed several strategic priorities and areas of focus for the organisation including work health and safety, and workforce and service continuity.

- The Board received an update on the progress of the Country Health Sustainability Taskforce.
- An update on progress made against the WACHS Environmental and Sustainability Framework was provided.
- Additional discussions also further focused on the organisational plan to respond to and address feedback arising from the Minister for Health's Your Voice In Health survey, and the Public Sector Commission's Census results.
- 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**

- An update from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, and the quarterly Audit and Risk Report to the Board.
- An update from the Chair of the Finance Committee, and the Finance, FTE and Activity Report for August 2023.
- An update from the Chair of the Safety and Quality Committee, and the quarterly Safety and Quality Report to the Board.

### **Items for Noting included**

- The [2022-23 WACHS Annual Report](#).

### **Next Meeting**

The next Board meeting will be held in Perth on 3 November 2023.

**Dr Neale Fong**

**BOARD CHAIR**

October 2023