



BOARD COMMUNIQUE

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

24 March 2023

The Board meeting was held in Perth on Friday, 24 March 2023 at WACHS' 189 Wellington Street offices.

This Board meeting was the last for inaugural Board Member, Mary Anne Stephens. Mary Anne provided a moving and powerful reflection in relation to her time as a Board Member. She noted that visiting Regional Western Australia as a Board Member had given her a sense of belonging and an appreciation of place. She thanked the Board for their camaraderie and expressed her gratefulness for the opportunity to work with them and the WACHS Executive for the benefit of country people. On behalf of the Board, Chair Neale Fong thanked Mary Anne for the contribution she has made to WACHS both as a Board Member and as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee over many years. Chief Executive Jeffrey Moffet thanked Mary Anne on behalf of the Executive and acknowledged the productive working relationship she has had with them and the respectful way in which she ensured a focus was maintained on important strategic issues.



The Board acknowledged the winners and finalists of the recent 2022 WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards and the 2023 Rural Health Excellence Awards.

Ashurst Lawyers were invited to attend the Board meeting to facilitate a discussion in relation to the organisation's work health and safety obligations under the Work Health and Safety Legislation. Discussion focused on key risks, and the responsibilities of various officers to monitor and mitigate those risks.

The Board received a presentation on the Digital Medical Record (DMR) program from project manager Dr Hannah Seymour. DMR is the first step towards a statewide Electronic Medical Record (EMR) with the aim of addressing digital inequity across the State, improving patient safety and quality, and preparing the system for EMR rollout. The Board heard that twenty-three sites in four regions in WACHS are having the DMR rolled out and currently it has already been successfully rolled out to 15 sites.

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 February.

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
Ms Mary Anne Stephens
Mrs Shaneane Weldon

In Attendance

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

Apologies

Nil

Key Matters for Decision

- The Board endorsed the final report for Quarter 3 and 4, 2022, in response to the former Minister for Health's Statement of Expectation.

Key Matters for Discussion

- In his report, the Chief Executive provided an update on recent Executive appointments, meetings with the Department of Health and progress of the Minister for Health Your Voice in Health staff survey.
- The Board discussed and confirmed several priorities and focus for the organisation.
- The Board received an update on the progress of the Country Health Sustainability Taskforce and were provided with the Terms of Reference and a summary of the Taskforce's objectives.
- Additional discussions also focused on workforce and service continuity matters, the WA Safety and Quality Strategic Plan, transport matters, Outpatient reform, Emergency Access Response and the Hospital Avoidance Program.
- 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, January 2023.
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Report, February 2023.
 - Workforce, Assurance and Compliance Report, March 2023.
 - WACHS Finance, FTE and Activity Report, March 2023.
 - Risk Review Report.
 - Progress Summary against the Audit Plan.

Items for Noting included

- An update on the status of research and innovation in WACHS.
- An update in relation to Maternity Services in the Gascoyne.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Perth on 25 May 2023.

Dr Neale Fong

BOARD CHAIR

March 2023