



BOARD COMMUNIQUE

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

28 July 2023

The Board meeting was held in Perth on Friday, 28 July 2023 at WACHS Central Office, 189 Wellington Street, Perth.

As this was the first Board meeting at Wellington Street since March 2023, Board members took the opportunity to meet with Central Office staff over a light lunch in the courtyard at 189 Wellington Street. It was also a chance for staff to meet new Board members Peter Campbell, Jodi Johnston and Catherine Stoddart, all of whom were attending their first Board meeting since being appointed.

Peter Campbell is a retired Orthopaedic Surgeon who held the position of Head of the Orthopaedic Department at St John of God Hospital, Subiaco. Jodi Johnston resides in Manjimup and was a physiotherapist working in private practice and aged care. Catherine Stoddart is the Chief Executive Officer of the Brightwater Care Group. Full biographies of the new Board members can be read on the [WACHS website](#).

Catherine (below right) and Jodi (centre right) are pictured with WACHS staff at the lunch.



At the meeting the Board received a presentation from Dr Helen Van Gessel, Executive Director Clinical Excellence, following 5-day visit to the Interior Health Service, British Columbia, Canada. British Columbia was chosen due to the unique similarities WACHS shares with the Province of British Columbia's health services including dispersed populations; large geographical reach; high First Nations populations; a small number of regional hospitals with many

small community hospitals and health centres; strong aeromedical retrieval requirements over difficult terrain and distances; and similar workforce challenges. The Board were pleased to note the success of the visit, with several opportunities for mutual benefit identified.

Members attending

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

In Attendance

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

Apologies

Mr Alan Ferris

Key Matters for Decision

- The Board endorsed the WACHS Board's Quarter 1 Report to the Minister for Health against the Minister's Statement of Expectations.

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.
- Additional discussions also focused on transport matters, establishment of a State Health Operations Centre, NDIS in-kind therapy services and the Indian Oceans Territories Health Services.
- 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

- Audit and Risk Committee update
- Finance Committee update and Finance, FTE and activity report July 2023
- Safety and Quality Committee update

Items for Noting included

- The draft 2022/23 WACHS Annual Report.
- An update on the new Public Sector Commissioner's Instruction 40: Ethical Foundations.
- An update on the Pilbara Challenge.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Narrogin on 25 August 2023.

Dr Neale Fong

BOARD CHAIR

July 2023