



BOARD COMMUNIQUE

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

29 June 2023

The Board meeting was held in Newman on Thursday, 29 June 2023 at the brand-new Newman Health Campus.

The state-of-the-art hospital was officially opened the former Premier Mark McGowan MLA and the Minister for Health Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA in May 2023. Board members appreciated the opportunity to visit the facility and speak with staff during their visit to the Pilbara as part of their regional engagement program.



The Board are pictured left outside of the Newman Health Campus. Below is some of the artwork which features throughout the hospital.



On arrival in Newman Regional staff escorted the Board members on a tour of the town to view the recent security upgrades made to staff accommodation.

The Board also welcomed the opportunity to visit the Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service (PAMS), an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service located in the East Pilbara region delivering services in communities located in Newman, Great Sandy, Little Sandy and Gibson Deserts.

The Board meeting was held at the Newman Health Service. At the meeting the Board acknowledged the contribution of outgoing Board members Daniel Heredia, Kelly Howlett and Mary Anne Stephens. Board Chair Dr Neale Fong noted the outgoing members' significant influence in improving the governance of safety, quality, and risk management in the organisation. Their expertise has facilitated informed discussions at both Board and Committee level and provided management with opportunities to examine and evaluate key strategic issues.

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 June.

Members attending

Dr Neale Fong (Board Chair)
Mr Robert Pulsford (A/Chief Executive)
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 Shaneane Weldon

In Attendance

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

Apologies

Ms Mary Anne Stephens

Key Matters for Decision

- The Board endorsed the WACHS Board Statement on the Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. The Board's statement is based on the importance its members give to the health and well-being of Western Australia's First Nations Peoples. The Board have made this statement in the context of the many WACHS initiatives and ongoing commitment to close the gap in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across regional and remote WA. The Board's statement can be read [on the WACHS website](#).
- The Board also endorsed the 2023/24 Department of Health Service Agreement.

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 facilities maintenance and management.
- The Board received an update on the progress of the Country Health Sustainability Taskforce.
- Additional discussions also focused on workforce and service continuity matters, transport matters, Your Voice in Health survey results and the implementation of a Fraud and Corruption Control System.
- 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, May 2023.
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Report, June 2023.
 - Workforce, Assurance and Compliance Report, June 2023.
 - WACHS Finance, FTE and Activity Report, June 2023.
 - Risk Review Report.
 - Progress Summary against the Audit Plan.

Items for Noting included

- A summary of the WACHS Teaching, Training and Research (TTR) hub activities.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Perth on 28 July 2023.

Dr Neale Fong

BOARD CHAIR

June 2023