



# BOARD COMMUNIQUÉ

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

**31 October 2024**

The Board travelled to the Midwest region for the third and last regional engagement visit of 2024. The visit provided the Board with opportunities to visit sites at Geraldton, Carnarvon, Denham (Shark Bay), Monkey Mia, Exmouth, and Coral Bay.

Whilst at those sites the Board met with local staff, community members, local government representatives, service partners and other stakeholders, and took the opportunity to discuss emerging regional priorities and challenges, as well as the various projects and initiatives underway to improve service provision to local communities in the Midwest. Whilst in Geraldton, the Board also received an onsite briefing about the \$166 million Geraldton Health Campus redevelopment, and took the opportunity to view the site works with key project leads.

In particular, the Board visited the Shark Bay Health Centre, following its recent transition from Silverchain to WACHS, and spent time with local staff and community members to hear directly from them about the transition program and continuing work underway to address some of the challenges experienced. The Board were pleased to hear that overall, community and staff feedback about the transition has largely been positive and the transition has been successful. The Board also would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to the Silverchain team and recognise the important contributions they have made in these communities over the years.



*The WACHS Board with members of the Executive and Midwest staff in Carnarvon.*

The Board meeting was held in Carnarvon on 31 October 2024.

The Board continued discussions on strengthening person-centred service delivery models. An update on the progress being made around strengthening area wide program connections and the development of operational frameworks which underpin the objectives and principles of this initiative was also provided.

The Board also continued discussions regarding the strategic objectives of the organisation to inform the WACHS Strategic Plan refresh, and the need to ensure the key strategic priorities are targeted and clearly defined. The Board provided feedback around the draft consultation plan, and agreed on the strategic priorities which will highlight WACHS' continued drive to improve overall health outcomes for country patients and communities. An update on the stakeholder consultation framework and engagement opportunities into early 2025 was also provided.

The Board acknowledged the tenure of outgoing member Mr Alan Ferris and thanked him for his dedication and commitment as a country Board Member, and for his leadership and guidance particularly with supporting the organisation in driving key financial sustainability and accountability reform. Mr Ferris was the inaugural Chair of the Finance Committee, and his term with WACHS concludes on 1 November 2024.

### **Members Attending**

Dr Neale Fong  
Ms Wendy Newman  
Dr Lorraine Anderson  
Dr Peter Campbell  
Mr Alan Ferris  
Mr Paul Fitzpatrick  
Mr Colin Holt (via MS Teams)  
Mrs Jodi Johnston  
Dr Catherine Stoddart (via MS Teams)  
Mrs Shaneane Weldon

### **Attendees**

Mr Jeffrey Moffet, Chief Executive  
Mr John Quinn, Chief Operating Officer – Rural and Remote (via MS Teams)

### **Secretariat**

Ms Brooke van Blommestein, A/Director Office of the Chief Executive

### **Apologies**

Nil

### **Key Matters for Decision**

- The Board approved the 2025 meeting and regional engagement schedule.
- The Board approved the WACHS Style Guide Refresh and Brand Mark.
- The Board approved the WACHS Workplace Violence Aggression Strategy 2024-28.

### **Key Matters for Discussion**

- The Chief Executive provided an update on Executive appointments, workforce development and recruitment initiatives, service delivery matters, and progress of key projects including access and demand strategies being implemented and worked through at a system-wide level.
- The Board were provided with an overview of the recent Country Health Sustainability Taskforce meeting and the outcomes and initiatives progressing through this Taskforce.
- The Board received an update on the progression of the Mental Health Commission Service Agreement for 2024-25.

### **Summary of Standing Items for Discussion and Noting**

- An update from the Chair of the Finance Committee, noting the last meeting was held on 24 September 2024, including discussion on the Safe and Sustainable Nursing Review, the review of the medical imaging workforce plan and the approach to phasing in FTE, an update on the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS), an update on internal financial functional reviews, and an update on the financial performance for September 2024, including FTE and activity updates.
- An update from the Chair of the Safety and Quality Committee noting the last meeting was held on 17 October 2024, an update safety, quality and clinical governance matters and initiatives across the organisation was provided, including: a presentation on the activities and initiatives underway to support Family and Domestic Violence and Child Safety services, an update on the Institute for Health Care Improvement Self-Assessment tool and integrating this into future governance practices, the approval of the NSQHS Attestation Statement, an update on SAC1 processes and current investigations, and recent Coronial Inquest findings. Additionally, the Board were provided with the Safety and Quality Committee's quarter one (1) 2024-25 Committee report, which summarised the high-level activities, initiatives and programs the Committee considered during this time period.



- An update from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, noting the last meeting was held on 15 October 2024. An update was provided on the exit meeting held with the Office of the Auditor General (OAG), recent audits undertaken by external auditors on both WACHS and statewide services, key workforce and assurance matters, and a briefing on operational and strategic risks. Additionally, the Board were provided with the Audit and Risk Committee's quarter one (1) 2024-25 report, which summarised the high-level activities, initiatives and programs the Committee considered during this time period.

### Items for Noting

- The Board received updates on strategic and operational initiatives including work, health and safety, workforce and service continuity matters, Aboriginal Health programs, strategies being implemented to support policy changes in relation to climate change, and an update on end-of-life medical equipment across the organisation and the strategies to address these.

### Next Meeting

- The next Board meeting of the year will be held in Perth on 29 November 2024.

**Dr Neale Fong**  
**BOARD CHAIR**

October 2024



*WACHS Board members with WACHS Executive members and Coral Bay Nursing Post staff.*