



# BOARD COMMUNIQUÉ

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

## 30 August 2024

The Board meeting was held in Perth on Friday, 30 August 2024 at WACHS' offices at Grace Vaughan House (GVH) in Shenton Park.

The Board were pleased to welcome recently appointed Director General, WA Health, Dr Shirley Bowen, to the meeting. The Board congratulated Dr Bowen on her appointment to the role, and acknowledged and thanked her for her support for the Country Health Sustainability Taskforce and the work underway to strengthen person-centred service delivery models across country communities.

The Board and Director General reflected on shared areas of interest and issues for improvement, and agreed there are many opportunities for WACHS and the System Manager to continue to work collaboratively to drive system reform and change to ensure high quality, safe health care continues to be delivered to rural and remote communities across WA.

The Director General acknowledged and thanked the WACHS Board for their contribution and support towards the development and implementation of sustainable services and workforce models. The Board reaffirmed WACHS' commitment to continue to work collaboratively with the System Manager to advance matters of strategic importance relevant to the health of all West Australians.

The Board also received presentations from Executive and their program leads on key operational issues pertinent to WACHS.

The Board were provided with an overview of the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) and Digital Medical Record (DMR) program implementation in the context of WACHS, a comparison of the two systems and how they will integrate once implemented, and an overview of some of the key differences a DMR solution is already bringing to country sites. The Board noted this is a key digital foundation to modernise and improve healthcare across all of Western Australia.

A briefing on WACHS' medical imaging program was provided, with the Board noting there are key areas within this space that are being diligently worked through – including workforce attraction and retention, contemporising medical imaging equipment, and integration of digital platforms to support improved patient care, clinician experience, governance, and innovation.

An overview of the current Child Development Services (CDS) model was provided, along with an update on the CDS Inquiry and areas of challenge. The Board were advised of work underway to strengthen delivery of CDS and increase staffing requirements (including attraction and retention of staff), noting reform in this area will better support good patient outcomes via improvements and better access for country patients.

### Members Attending

Ms Wendy Newman (Acting Board Chair)  
Dr Lorraine Anderson  
Dr Peter Campbell  
Mr Alan Ferris  
Mr Paul Fitzpatrick  
Mr Colin Holt  
Mrs Jodi Johnston  
Dr Catherine Stoddart (MS Teams)

### Attendees

Mr Jeffrey Moffet, Chief Executive  
Mr John Quin, Chief Operating Officer Rural and Remote

### Secretariat

Ms Brooke van Blommestein, A/Director Office of the CE

## Apologies

Dr Neale Fong

Mrs Shaneane Weldon

## Key Matters for Decision

- The Board approved the 2023-24 Annual Governance Attestation Statement.
- The Board approved the Bunbury Hospital Critical Infrastructure Risk Management Program's Annual Report.

## Key Matters for Discussion

- The Chief Executive provided an update on executive appointments, workforce development initiatives, service delivery matters, and the progress of key projects.
- The Board continued discussions regarding the strategic objectives of the organisation to inform the WACHS Strategic Plan refresh, consultation and engagement strategies with key stakeholders and staff, and on strengthening person-centred service delivery models.

## Summary of Standing Items for Discussion and Noting

- An update from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) noting that although no meeting was held in the month of August, an update on workforce reporting and the organisation's annual audit activity was provided.
- An update from the Chair of the Finance Committee, noting that although no meeting was held in the month of August, discussion was had on the Finance, FTE and Activity Dashboard standing report and an update on the Mid-Year Review process for 2024-25.
- An update from the Chair of the Safety and Quality Committee, noting that although no meeting was held in the month of August, an update on safety, quality and clinical governance matters and initiatives across the organisation was provided, including an overview on the Safety and Quality Chairs meeting, and safety and quality audit activity.

## Items for Noting

- The Board received updates on strategic and operational initiatives including work, health and safety, workforce and service continuity matters, the Country Health Sustainability Taskforce, and Palliative Care and Voluntary Assisted Dying initiatives.

## Next Meeting

- The next Board meeting will be held in Carnarvon on 31 October 2024, as part of a regional engagement visit to the Midwest.

**Ms Wendy Newman**

**ACTING BOARD CHAIR**

September 2024