



Communiqué WA Country Health Service Board

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the Board’s regional engagement meetings in the Pilbara Region.

22 – 23 August 2019 Board Meeting

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Board travelled to the Pilbara on the 22 and 23 August, holding meetings and forums in Tom Price, Paraburdoo, Jigalong and Newman. The Board inspected the Tom Price health service facility, which is a priority for redevelopment. While in Tom Price the Board met with representatives from the Shire of Ashburton, Rio Tinto, local medical practice representatives and hospital staff.



The Board, WACHS CE, RD Pilbara, shire CEO and staff at Tom Price Hospital

In Paraburdoo the Board met with the local nursing post staff and inspected the facilities.

Travelling to Jigalong the Board had the opportunity to meet the CEO and staff from Punturkurnu

Aboriginal Health Service who operate the Jigalong Health Clinic. The clinic had recently undergone a \$2M refurbishment under a WACHS \$22m remote Indigenous health clinics program aimed to improve remote health clinic facilities. While in Jigalong the Board met with the local school principal and shown a number of innovative programs being offered to support local children to become job ready, including skills in digital technology and agriculture.



Board members, WACHS CE, RD Pilbara, the CEO and representatives from Punturkurnu Aboriginal Health Service outside the Jigalong clinic

In Newman the Board met with the Pilbara health regional executive, local government, BHP and other business stakeholders and the Newman Hospital staff.

The meetings provided an opportunity for the Board to inform local stakeholders of the recently released WACHS strategic plan 2019 – 2024 and its key priorities as well as hear directly from staff and local stakeholders regarding their priorities and key issues for their local health services.

The health staff working in these communities are to be congratulated for their resourcefulness and innovation in continually looking to improve services, the strong relationships built with local service partners and their overall commitment to the community. These are isolated communities several hundred kilometres from the nearest regional centre and the Board acknowledges the good work and services being delivered along with the challenges faced by our staff on a day to day basis.

The Board would also like to thank Margi Faulkner, Regional Director Pilbara and her dedicated team for organising and hosting the Board’s meetings over the two day regional engagement visit.

The Board meeting was held in Newman on Friday the 23 August 2019.

Attendance

Prof. Neale Fong (Chair)
Ms. Wendy Newman (Deputy Chair)
Mr. Alan Ferris
Dr Daniel Heredia (via VC)
Ms. Kelly Howlett

Ms. Mary Anne Stephens
Dr Diane Mohen
Ms. Meredith Waters
Dr Kim Isaacs (via VC)
Mr. Michael Hardy (via VC)

Apologies – Nil

In Attendance – Jeff Moffet, CE

Key Matters for Decision

- The Board reviewed and endorsed the WACHS Fraud and Corruption Control Plan.
- The Board discussed and endorsed the WACHS strategic funding priorities to be submitted as part of the 2020 -21 State Government budget review process.
- A submission by WACHS to the Aged Care Royal Commission was reviewed and discussed, with feedback provided on areas of the submission to be strengthened prior to lodgement.

Key Matters for Discussion

- The Chief Executive's report provided an update on monthly performance, projections and key developments within WACHS over the past month;
- The launch of the WACHS 2019 – 2024 Strategic Plan on the 20 August 2019 was discussed along with the development of implementation planning.
- Similarly the official opening of the new Onslow health service by the Minister for Health on the 31 July 2019 was discussed and the positive feedback received from the community on the "one stop" design and layout of the new facility.
- The WA Country Ambulance Strategy and a draft of the WA Ambulance Policy developed by the Department of Health were discussed along with discussion on the next steps in implementing these initiatives.
- The Board reviewed the draft of the WACHS 2018/19 Annual Report, pending final completion following receipt of the Auditor General's audit opinions on financial controls and key performance indicators.

Summary of Items for Noting

- WACHS Organisational Standing Reports including:
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Monthly Dashboard Report.
 - Safety and Quality Quarterly report – Quarter 4 2018/19
 - Workforce Assurance and Compliance Monthly Dashboard Report.
 - Finance and Resources Monthly Board Dashboard.
 - Health Service Performance Report (July 2019).
 - Audit and Risk Committee Quarterly Report – Quarter 4 2018/19
 - Audit and Risk Report (July 2019).
 - Key Projects and Initiatives Report (July 2019).
- General Items for noting included:
 - Auditor General's follow-up audit report on Ambulance Services – Tabled 13 July 2019
 - Cognitive Institute "Speak up about Safety" Bunbury Hospital implementation Update
 - State Public Health Plan for Western Australia
 - NSQHS – Standards user guide for governing bodies – 2019
 - WACHS Minor Works Program 2019-20
 - WA Health System Manager Governance and Assurance Model - Draft

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Perth on 27 September 2019.

Professor Neale Fong

Chair, WA Country Health Service Board

30 August 2019