



Communiqué WA Country Health Service Board

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

18 December 2020

The Board held the final meeting of the year in Perth, at WACHS Central Office.

The focus of the meeting was the endorsement of progressing WACHS' business cases to the Department of Treasury for consideration as part of next year's State Budget.

Nous Group also facilitated a two and a half hour 'deep dive' session with the Board and WACHS Executive, in relation to small hospitals. At this session, the future direction of small hospitals was explored, and discussion entailed how the innovative use of digital opportunities could achieve a sustainable community hospital model that meets safety and quality standards, prioritise health needs and optimises workforce solutions and what the next steps would be to achieve this vision.

Following the Board meeting, a joint session was held with WACHS Executive. This provided an opportunity for the Board and Executive to reflect on the events of the previous 12 months as well as discuss the priorities for WACHS in 2021.

The Board expressed appreciation on behalf of all WA country people for the dedication and commitment of all WACHS staff in continuing to support and deliver high quality patient centred care to regional communities. The significant contributions made by so many throughout an extremely busy and challenging year, particularly during an unprecedented pandemic, was also commended.

The Board thanked the Chief Executive, Mr. Jeff Moffet, for his excellent leadership and acknowledged the efforts and leadership of the Executive and their support teams.

Members Attending

Dr. Neale Fong (Board Chair)	Ms. Kelly Howlett
Ms. Wendy Newman (Deputy Board Chair)	Dr. Kim Isaacs
Mr. Alan Ferris	Dr. Diane Mohen
Mr. Paul Fitzpatrick	Ms. Mary Anne Stephens
Dr. Daniel Heredia	Ms. Meredith Waters

In Attendance

Mr. Jeffrey Moffet (Chief Executive)
Ms. Margaret Denton (Chief Operating Officer)

Key Matters for Decision

- The Board provided in principle endorsement for WACHS business cases to progress via the Department of Health for submission to the Department of Treasury for consideration at part of the 2021-22 State Budget.
- Following the 'deep dive' session, the Board endorsed the progression of pursuing a Small Hospitals strategy.

Key Matters for Discussion

- The Chief Executive's report provided an update on performance, projections and key developments within WACHS over the past month.
- The Board heard the Safety and Quality's focus for 2021 will be on developing a contemporary and service-focused safety and quality model, including the development of a Safety and Quality Strategy.
- The Board noted the work undertaken against the Office of the Auditor General (OAG)'s Better Practice Guide for Audit Committees to strengthen the Audit and Risk Committee's governance

- The Board further discussed WACHS' structural budget deficit and cash risk, and noted the focus to resolve these issues, as lead by the joint Working Group.

Summary of Standing Items for Discussion and Noting

- WACHS Organisational Standing Reports including:
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Monthly Dashboard Report.
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Monthly Exception Report.
 - Detailed Risk Report as at 30 November 2020.
 - Progress Summary against the Audit Plan Report as at 30 November 2020.
- General items for noting included:
 - WACHS Cultural Governance Framework.
 - Letter to Department of Health Director General regarding WACHS' structural budget deficit and cash risk.
 - Letter from WACHS CE to Department of Health regarding WACHS' cash requirements.
 - WACHS HSPR – October 2020.
 - PSSU 2020 Annual Report – Your Safety in our Hands.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Margaret River on 26 February 2021, and will form part of the Board's first two-day regional engagement visit to the South West for 2021.

**Dr Neale Fong
BOARD CHAIR**

11 January 2021