



Communiqué **WA Country Health Service Board**

This communiqué highlights key discussions from the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Board's regional engagement meetings in the Kimberley region.

19-21 August 2020

The Board travelled to the East Kimberley region for the third regional engagement visit of 2020, with meetings and forums held in Halls Creek, Wyndham and Kununurra. On arrival at Halls Creek, the Board were welcomed by the Traditional Owners, with a Welcome to Country smoking ceremony performed at the airport.

The Board had the opportunity to visit Halls Creek Health Service, Wyndham District Hospital and Kununurra District Hospital, where local staff at each site provided a tour of the facilities and discussed key issues relevant to the health services. Staff were also able to present overviews of key initiatives and achievements across the region such as the future Safe Haven Café in Kununurra, as well discuss some of the challenges experienced in delivering mental health and transport services within the region.



Local cuisine on display



Dr Neale Fong, Board Chair, Kununurra

Both the staff and stakeholder sessions at each of these sites allowed the Board to highlight the WACHS Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 directions and discuss key issues for the local health services, key service partners and community groups.

The Board were also provided the opportunity to tour the Yura Yungi Medical Service, a key service partner, whilst in Halls Creek.

The Board would like to acknowledge and thank all the staff in the Kimberley region for their strong commitment to delivering comprehensive health services to their local communities across the many challenges experienced in the Kimberley. The Board would also like to thank Bec Smith, Keda Bond and David Pigram, along with the dedicated regional team, for organising and hosting the Board meeting and engagements over the two day visit.

The Board meeting was held in Kununurra on 21 August 2020.



Attendance

Dr. Neale Fong (Board Chair)
Ms. Wendy Newman (Deputy Board Chair)
Mr. Alan Ferris
Mr. Paul Fitzpatrick
Dr. Daniel Heredia

Ms. Kelly Howlett
Dr Kim Isaacs
Dr Diane Mohen
Ms. Mary Anne Stephens
Ms. Meredith Waters

Apologies

Nil

In Attendance

Mr. Jeffrey Moffet (Chief Executive)
Bec Smith (Regional Director), observing



Boab trees, Kununurra

Key Matters for Decision

- The Board reviewed and endorsed the Annual Governance Attestation Statement for 2019-20.
- The Board reviewed and endorsed the list of proposed business cases for the 2021-22 Budget process.

Key Matters for Discussion

- The Chief Executive's report provided an update on performance, projections and key developments within WACHS over the past month.
- An update on WACHS' response and preparedness to COVID-19 was provided to the Board.
- An overview of the WACHS Mental Health Cultural Governance Framework was provided; with the Board noting the importance of cultural governance and providing in principle support to implement the Framework.
- The Board received a briefing on the current state of the Indian Ocean Territories Health Services agreement and the work underway to examine the coordination and management of the current contract.
- An update on work underway for WACHS' Your Voice in Health results and action plan was provided; and
- The Board received a briefing on WACHS' Environment and Sustainability Framework, providing in principle support for the draft Framework.

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.
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Quarterly Report – April to June 2020.
 - Workforce Assurance and Compliance Monthly Dashboard Report.
 - Finance and Resources Monthly Board Dashboard Report.
 - Detailed Risk Report as at 31 July 2020.
 - Progress Summary against the Audit Plan Report as at 7 August 2020.
 - Quarterly ARC Report to the Board – April to June 2020.
 - Reputational Risk Dashboard – April to June 2020.
- General items for noting included:
 - RACGP announcement – Legislative changes for MBS telehealth items

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Perth on 30 October 2020.

Dr Neale Fong
Chair, WA Country Health Service Board
10 September 2020