



WACHS BOARD COMMUNIQUE

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

25 March 2022.

Due to the escalation in the number of COVID 19 cases in the community, the Board Chair, Deputy Board Chair, Chief Executive and support staff were in attendance in person, with the remainder of Board members attending the meeting via MS Teams.

The Board welcomed the Minister for Health Hon Amber Jade Sanderson MLA to the meeting, in her first opportunity to meet with the WACHS Board as Minister for Health. The Minister had opportunity to meet with the Board to discuss significant issues affecting country health services, and for the Board to highlight WACHS key strategic priorities. Issues discussed included the Board's priority in addressing staff accommodation, workforce and service continuity, and COVID-19 preparedness.

The Board Chair highlighted the appreciation of WACHS staff and management for the Minister's recent regional visit to Bunbury Health Campus and Albany Hospital, and noted this was a positive opportunity to acknowledge staff for their significant efforts over many months.

The Board congratulated the Minister for Health on her appointment and thanked her for her support of country communities. Below is a photograph of the Minister with the Board Chair Neale Fong, Deputy Board Chair Wendy Newman and Chief Executive Jeffrey Moffet with Board members on screen.



The Board also received a presentation from WorkSafe Commissioner Darren Kavanagh and WorkSafe Director Sally North, on the Work Health and Safety Act 2020. New regulations come into effect on 31 March 2022 and relate to general workplaces, mining operations and petroleum and geothermal energy operations. The Commissioner summarised the major changes to the Act.

The Board Finance, Audit and Risk, and Safety and Quality Committee Chairs provided briefings to the Board on recent Committee meetings held in the months of February and March.

Members attending

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

In attendance

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

Apologies

Nil

Key Matters for Decision

The Board endorsed the progression of the WACHS Heritage Project. This project is designed to celebrate WACHS' pioneers and innovators by telling the stories of the people, places and events that have shaped rural and remote healthcare from pre-colonisation to the present day.

Key Matters for Discussion

- The Board received an update on COVID-19 communication and regional engagement. The Deputy Board Chair was thanked for your support in engagement with local government in the regions and noted COVID communications are a team effort across the organisation.
- The Board received an overview of the Final Report - Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0-18 years in WA and noted the recommendations regarding building a more resilient child and adolescent mental health service.
- Other discussions focused on WACHS workforce and service continuity matters, staff accommodation and a COVID-19 update.
- In his report, the Chief Executive provided an update on staffing, the COVID response, staff safety and patient transport.
- High level updates were received on WACHS' performance across the Business Performance, Workforce, Safety and Quality, Finance, Business Services and COVID areas, and WACHS' progress with the COVID-19 vaccination program.

Summary of Standing Items for Discussion and Noting

- WACHS Organisational Standing Reports including:
 - Health Service Performance Report, January 2022.
 - Safety, Quality and Clinical Performance Dashboard Report, March 2022.
 - Workforce, Assurance and Compliance Dashboard Report, December, January and February 2022.
 - Risk Review Report.
 - Progress Summary against the Audit Plan Report.

Items for noting included:

- Letter from the HSS Board Chair to WACHS Board Chair regarding WACHS acknowledgement of excellent service delivery during the COVID-19 response.
- Letter from the Board Chair to the Hon Melissa Price MP and the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC in relation to the WACHS bid for Research Translation Centre accreditation.
- Notifiable Diseases in Country WA 2020 report

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Perth on Friday 27 May 2022.

Dr Neale Fong

BOARD CHAIR

12 April 2022