



# BOARD COMMUNIQUE

This communique highlights key discussions from the recent WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Board meeting.  
**25 August 2023**

The Board travelled to the southern Wheatbelt for their third regional engagement visit for the year. The visit provided the Board with the opportunity to visit sites at Boddington, Dumbleyung, Wickepin, Pingelly, Wagin and Narrogin. Whilst at those sites the Board met with local staff, community members, local government representatives and other stakeholders, and took the opportunity to discuss emerging regional priorities and challenges, as well as the various projects and initiatives underway to improve service provision to the Wheatbelt community.

Accompanying the WACHS Board on this visit were members of Health Support Services (HSS) Board and Executive. The objective of this collaboration was to build on the relationship already established between the two organisations, and to provide HSS with the opportunity to hear firsthand from staff the challenges faced by rural health services in relation to procurement, recruitment and information and communication technology. Pictured below outside the Boddington Hospital are members of the WACHS Board, WACHS Executive, HSS Board and HSS Executive.



Whilst in the Wheatbelt the Board took the opportunity to acknowledge the long service of two dedicated WACHS employees, Dr Peter Maguire and Mr Tony Lanciano.

Dr Maguire has been a medical officer at Beverley and Narrogin Hospitals since 2014 and has been a member of the Narrogin Hospital Medical Advisory Committee, the Sustainable Health Review Clinical Reference Group and a Sessional Medical Co-ordinator of the Rural Clinical School of WA. Currently he is, amongst other appointments, the WA representative on the Australian Medical Association Council of Rural Doctors. In 2022 Dr Maguire was named co-winner of the Rural Health West GP of the Year for his commitment to rural health in WA and his dedication to students, colleagues and patients.

Mr Tony Luciano arrived in the Wheatbelt from Italy in 1964. He soon found employment at the Narrogin Hospital as a gardening assistant. Tony worked in various roles at the Hospital, including as a nursing orderly, kitchen orderly and storeman. He eventually moved to the laundry as a general orderly where he remains today. Tony's work ethic and positive attitude inspires his managers and colleagues to this day. At 82 years of age and serving WACHS for 59 years, Tony is believed to be one of the organisation's oldest and longest serving employees.

In acknowledging Peter and Tony's long service to the Wheatbelt, Board Chair Dr Neale Fong noted both men embody WACHS values of community, compassion, quality, integrity, equity and curiosity. Dr Fong and Chief Executive Jeff Moffet thanked Peter and Tony for their service and wished Peter all the best for his retirement. Tony and Peter are pictured right with the Chief Executive and Board Chair.



The Board meeting was held at the Narrogin Hospital on 25 August 2023. The Board invited the HSS Board and Executive members to the first hour of the meeting to discuss mutual learnings from the regional engagement. Feedback from the WACHS Board members and HSS was that the collaboration was highly successful and informative for both organisations.

At the meeting the Board acknowledged the excellent work of Executive Director Rachele Ferrari and the southern Wheatbelt team for facilitating and hosting the Board's meeting and staff and stakeholder engagements over the two-day visit. The Board thanked the Wheatbelt team for their ongoing innovation, commitment and dedication to delivering critical services within the ongoing workforce shortage environment.

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

#### **Members attending**

Dr Neale Fong (Board Chair)  
Ms Wendy Newman (Deputy Board Chair)  
Mr Peter Campbell  
Mr Alan Ferris  
Mr Paul Fitzpatrick  
Mrs Jodi Johnston  
Mr Colin Holt  
Dr Diane Mohen  
Prof Catherine Stoddart  
Mrs Shaneane Weldon

#### **In Attendance**

Mr Jeffrey Moffet (Chief Executive)

#### **Apologies**

Nil

#### **Key Matters for Decision**

- The Board endorsed the WACHS Board Annual Governance Attestation Statement 2022/23. Health Service Provider Boards are required to complete an annual Governance Attestation Statement as part of good governance practice. The Attestation Statement reports retrospectively by financial year and is to be submitted to the Director General of the Department of Health and Minister for Health.

#### **Key Matters for Discussion**

- The Chief Executive provided an update on Executive appointments, meetings with the Department of Health, progress of various inquiries and ongoing key contract negotiations, together with a summary of an all-staff forum held to discuss the recent Your voice in Health Staff Survey results.
- The Board discussed several strategic priorities and areas of focus for the organisation including work health and safety and financial management.
- The Board received an update on the progress of the Country Health Sustainability Taskforce.
- Additional discussions also focused on workforce and service continuity matters, transport matters and the State Budget process for 2024/25.
- High level updates were also received on WACHS' performance across the Business Performance, Workforce, Safety and Quality, Finance and Business Services.

#### **Summary of Standing Items for Discussion and Noting**

- WACHS Organisational Standing Reports including WACHS Finance, FTE and Activity Report, July 2023.

#### **Items for Noting included**

- A letter to the Minister for Health submitting the Board's report against her Statement of Expectation for Quarter 1, 2023/24.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next Board meeting will be held in Perth on 28 September 2023.

Dr Neale Fong

#### **BOARD CHAIR**

August 2023