



Health Support Services Board

Communiqué

September 2023 Meeting

During August 2023, Members of the Board and Executive embarked on a purposeful journey to the Wheatbelt region to gain firsthand insights into the challenges and successes that define rural healthcare in WA. The group of eight joined the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Executive team and Board, on a two-day tour visiting healthcare sites across the region including Boddington Health Service, Pingelly Health Centre, Wickepin Health Centre, Wagin Health Service, Dumbleyung Memorial Hospital and Narrogin Regional Hospital.

Key Discussion

Key discussion at the HSS Board meeting focussed on key matters related to the end of 2022-23 financial year and commencement of the 2023-24 financial year. These included the approval of the HSS Annual Governance Attestation Statement and the draft HSS Annual Report 2022-23.

Reports were provided by the HSS Finance Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC) and the HSS People and Performance Committee (PPC) following their August 2023 meetings.

Other discussion at this month's meeting included important updates from the major ICT programs as well as the findings and recommendations from the recent Office of the Auditor General annual financial and general computer controls audits.

Chief Executive's Update

The Chief Executive provided an update on the key achievements and issues across HSS in August 2023. These highlights included:

- The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) has completed the Audit of HSS, comprising the audit of HSS' financial statements and associated controls, Key Performance Indicators, and the General Computer Controls (GCC). The qualification issued in 2021-22 for Inventory Controls has been lifted. HSS has been issued with an unqualified opinion for the financial statements, controls, and key performance indicators. The OAG has raised four new and three prior year issues in this year's annual financial audit report and six new and 13 prior

year issues in the GCC audit report. None of these findings were rated as significant. HSS is developing an Action Plan to address these findings and recommendations.

- HSS Chief Executive met with the HR&C team to discuss the Aboriginal workforce plan which is centred around three themes. The plan will go through the PPC in November and will be presented to the Board in December 2023.
- Long Service Leave for Casuals work is being re-baselined to set out a project scope. A project team will be formed to manage the implementation strategy, considering HRplus deployment and the current industrial environment.

Board Reports and Papers noted

The Board also received the following reports and papers for discussion and noting:

- Chief Financial Officer's Report
- Performance Report
- Chief Information Officer's Report
- Program Delivery Report
- Board Administration Report

Attendance (via MS Teams and in-person)

Ms Margaret Pyrchla (A/Board Chair)

Dr Con Phatouros

Ms Cheryl Chan

Dr Rowan Ellis

Ms Yaso Ponnuthurai

Ms Katina Law

Dr Paul Boyatzis

Apologies

Michael Walsh (Board Chair) – leave of absence

Ms Amanda McKnight

Standing Executive Invitees

Mr Robert Toms, Chief Executive

Ms Carrie Wilson, A/Chief Financial Officer

Mr Anthony Lenzarini, A/Chief Information Officer

Ms Julie Mount, A/Executive Director, Program Delivery

Mr Ralph Bates Executive Director, Customer Experience

Ms Alison Mann, A/Director, Office of the Chief Executive

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 5 October 2023 at 140 William Street, Perth WA 6000.

Ms Margaret Pyrchla

Acting Chair, Health Support Services Board