



Western NSW Local Health District Board
2020 Annual Public Meeting
held via videoconference
Wednesday 4 Nov 2020, 1:00 – 2.00pm AEDT

WELCOME/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm with the Chair providing an Acknowledgement of Country.

Attendance of Board Members

Scott Griffiths (Chair), Dr Joe Canalese, Fiona Bennett, Jason Cooke, Dr Colin McClintock, Amanda O'Brien and John Walkom

In Attendance

Mark Spittal, Acting Chief Executive; Josh Carey, Executive Director Finance; Kathy Connell, Executive Director Communication and Engagement, Debbie Bickerton, Acting Executive Director Operations, Julie Dunn, A/Board Secretariat.

Members of the community and health council representatives, Health Service Managers, LHD staff as per attendance list.

Apologies

Darren Ah See, Paul Mann and Joan Treweweke

Chairman's Report – Mr Scott Griffiths, PSM

The Chair thanked all those in attendance and acknowledged members of the Health Councils and their generous time and commitment to their role.

Mr Griffiths reflected on the activities of Western NSW Local Health District in the past 12 months and the impact of COVID-19 on services, staff and communities. COVID-19 had also restricted the ability for the board to visit communities and services on a regular basis during the year. On behalf of the Board, the chair acknowledged and thanked everyone for the work they have done during these difficult times.

Four board members will be finishing their term on the Board in the coming months and include Scott Griffiths, Dr Joe Canalese, Joan Treweweke and Paul Mann.

Chief Executive Address – Mr Mark Spittal (A/CE)

Mr Spittal acknowledged the traditional owners of the land we are meeting on and also those across the whole LHD.

A presentation was given which included an overview of the Local Health District activities, priorities, services, achievements and operating challenges.

Financial Report – Mr Josh Carey

Mr Carey commenced by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land we are meeting on.

A presentation was given outlining 2019-20 financial results including key achievements.

Questions and Open Discussion

Questions and discussion included the following areas:

LHD Board members attending Health Council meetings – if Health Councils would like a representative from the Board to attend one of their meetings an invitation to the Board can be placed through Illona Dunn, Manager Community Engagement

Funding for Dubbo Hospital redevelopment Stages 5 & 6 – More planning is required before funding can be sought for stages 5 & 6 of the Dubbo Hospital redevelopment.

Update for CT Van project (Cobar, Bourke and Walgett) – concrete pads are needed to be prepared at the CT Van locations. COVID-19 has delayed this project.

Grenfell Multipurpose Service (MPS) redevelopment – the Commonwealth covers funding for MPSs. No funding has been earmarked for Grenfell re-development. The clinical services plan for Grenfell has been completed. The government is also waiting on the final report and recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality.

Cowra Hospital redevelopment update – commitment received from the State government. The Clinical Service Plan is in the final draft.

Telehealth – it was acknowledged that more community engagement and information is needed around telehealth to help people understand the benefits and how it is used. The language used for telehealth needs to be reviewed and perhaps use specific service names such as virtual pharmacy rather than the generic term of “telehealth”.

On-call GP services at Gulgong MPS – it was raised by a community person that any doctor recruited to the town needs to also provide on-call services to the Gulgong MPS. It was confirmed by Mr Spittal that the Local Health District is still actively recruiting for doctors to provide services, including on-call, to Gulgong MPS.

Will there be further budget supplement from NSW Health for COVID-19 especially with the cost of increased testing? – the Local Health District is seeking additional funding. Facilities will be reimbursed for the testing at their site. Funding will be on a month by month basis.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.10 pm