

Western NSW LHD Board Meeting February 2021  
Parkview Meeting Room (upstairs), Orange Health Service  
Wednesday 3 Feb 2021, 10:00 — 15:00 AEDT

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am with the Chair providing an Acknowledgement of Country.

### Attendance of Members

Scott Griffiths (Chair), Dr Joseph Canalese, Darren Ah See (video), Fiona Bennett, Jason Cooke, Paul Mann, Dr Colin McClintock, Amanda O'Brien, Joan Treweeke.

### In Attendance

Scott McLachlan, Chief Executive, Mark Spittal, Executive Director Operations; Josh Carey, Executive Director Planning, Performance and Funding; Adrian Fahy, Executive Director Quality, Clinical Safety and Nursing; Dr Paul Bloomfield, District Medical Staff Executive Council; Lauren Nott, Secretariat.

#### 1 Apologies

John Walkom

#### 2 Conflicts of Interest

Changes to Amanda O'Brien were noted.  
Update to Scott Griffiths – remove reference to LiveBetter.

#### Action:

[Conflicts of Interest register for Chair, Scott Griffiths to be updated.](#)

Action by: Ms Nott Action due: ASAP

#### 3 Draft minutes of Board meetings held 2 December 2020

Minutes of the Board meeting held 2 December 2020 were endorsed by the Board.

#### 4 Action Register from Board meeting held 2 December 2020

Progress on action items was noted.

#### 5 Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing - Closing the Gap Update (Brendon Cutmore)

*Mr Brendon Cutmore, Executive Director Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing and Mr Paul Douglas, Manger Aboriginal Health Norther Sector, joined the meeting via video.*

A discussion was held following the presentation by Mr Cutmore.

Mr Cutmore outlined the community and organisation consultation undertaken to inform the strategy including the identification of over 120 priorities and the development of action plans for these. It was suggested that perhaps an appendix could be attached to document outlining priorities and actions.

*Mr Cutmore and Mr Douglas left the meeting.*

#### 6 Chair Report

The Chair advised two Secretary updates were held in December with the focus on COVID. Fortnightly updates with Secretary will recommence this month.

The Council of Board Chairs met in December. There was a renewed focus on the future of Boards including size, makeup, roles and remuneration  
The annual Board conference will be held 15 March 2021.

## **7 2020 Board Review and Evaluation**

A discussion was held regarding the Board review and evaluation. The discussion included agenda timing and length and content of papers to allow sufficient time for deep discussion. Cover sheets could be more succinct with changes to papers highlighted so whole papers don't need to be read. Monthly reports could include commentary on trends and recurrent issues.

It was agreed:

- Some papers could be sent out of session and then addressed at the next Board meeting.
- Visits to facilities to meet staff and patients is beneficial
- There is general satisfaction with processes of meetings.

The Chair is happy to receive further suggestions out of session.

*Dr Paul Bloomfield , DMSEC representative joined the meeting via video*

## **8 Chief Executive Report**

Mr McLachlan spoke to the report which was noted by the Board. Mr McLachlan thanked Mr Spittal and Ms Bickerton for stepping up while he was on leave.

### Upper House Inquiry

Hearings will commence 19 March 2021. The Committee is working out how it will proceed with future hearings, including locations. It is anticipated that senior officers of NSW Health will be required to attend hearings as well as relevant LHD CEs. The impact on staff is noted particularly as media interest increases.

Orange MSC made a submission to the Inquiry. This was sent to GM, Orange and A/CE prior to submission. The intent of the submission is to gain positive action for LHD. Dr Bloomfield outlined the process undertaken by Orange MSC in creating the submission with equity of access a key theme.

It was felt the Inquiry is an opportunity for the LHD and Board to take action on any submissions and information to make improvements.

### Dubbo Redevelopment

HI component has been completed and the formal handover is now set for mid-February.

### **8.1 WNSWLHD Performance Scorecard**

The scorecard was noted by the Board and a brief discussion held. Commentary could be included where trends are noted. CE noted further analysis is picked up in directorate reports.

### **8.2 NSW Health League Table**

The league table was noted by the Board.

### **8.3 NSW Government Submission to Parliamentary Inquiry**

The NSW Government submission to the parliamentary inquiry was noted by the Board.

- 9 Planning**  
*Mr Jeff Morrissey, Executive Director Corporate Services and Clinical Support and Ms Angela Firth, A/Director HIU joined the meeting via video. Kate Middleton A/Manager, Planning and Service Development joined the meeting in person.*
- 9.1 Planning - Warren Clinical Services Plan (CSP)**  
Ms Firth gave a presentation (refer to papers) and spoke to the Warren CSP which was noted by the Board. A discussion was held.  
It was noted the Warren CSP has not been through the new infrastructure and asset prioritisation paper included in today's meeting papers.
- It was also noted that some areas of the Warren CSP may be impacted by recommendations from the Upper House Inquiry and therefore may not be able to be fully endorsed.
- Recommendation**  
The Board gave a broad endorsement of the direction of Warren MPS Clinical Services Plan 2020 – 2030 V1.7 with exception of a dedicated dementia unit.  
*All members were in agreement.*
- 9.2 WNSWLHD COVID-19 Vaccination Planning**  
The CE spoke to the presentation (refer to papers) and a brief discussion followed.
- 10 Planning, Performance and Funding**
- 10.1 Performance Report**  
Mr Carey spoke to the report which was noted by the Board and highlighted the favorable result for December. The full year forecast has been revised to \$30.5M unfavourable including COVID Expenses.  
Indications for January 2021 are for a favourable result with a key driver being annual leave.
- 10.2 Infrastructure and Asset Prioritisation and Residential Aged Care Decision Making**  
Ms Firth provided a presentation (refer to papers) and spoke to the brief and supporting documents which were noted by the Board. A discussion was held and feedback given.
- Action**  
The Infrastructure and Asset Prioritisation and Residential Aged Care Decision Making document is to be progressed for further review and come back to April Board meeting.  
Action by: Ms Firth Action due: 7 April 2021
- Mr Morrissey, Ms Firth and Ms Middleton left the meeting*
- 10.3 Finance & Performance Committee 27 January 2021 draft minutes**  
The draft minutes of the F&P Committee were noted by the Board.
- 10.4 Finance & Performance Committee Chair Comments**  
The F&P will receive a quarterly update on the Sustainability Plan. The full impact of the vaccination rollout is not known at this time.

## 11 **Presentation - Rural Sector Projects**

*Dr Shannon Nott, Rural Health Director Medical Services and Ms Amelia Haigh, Rural Health Innovation Lead joined the meeting via video*

A presentation was given (refer to papers) and discussion held.

### Virtual Rural Generalist Service (VRGS)

Dr Nott advised there will be an additional four doctors joining the VRGS team. This will result on a total of 27 doctors and will ensure full coverage of roster.

COVID restrictions have limited some doctors coming into the LHD for face to face care however at least 4-5 doctors provide face to face care at any one time and in the future this will include northern communities in consultation with Ochre.

### Northern Medical Contract – Ochre

Engagement with Ochre has been positive and adherence to the contract will be monitored. The financial impact will be approximately \$500K per year moving forward noting the contract does include the option of applying penalties for a number of areas. Local councils are generally supportive of the transfer to Ochre. More information will be provided in the March Clinical Operations report.

*Dr Nott and Ms Haigh left the meeting*

## 12 **Clinical Operations**

### 12.1 **Executive Director Clinical Operations Report**

Mr Spittal spoke to the report which was noted by the Board and highlighted:

- The elective surgery recovery plan has been updated. All lists will be up to date by April except for Dubbo which is planned for end of financial year.
- The new Palliative Care / Cancer ward opened on Orange.
- Wellington/Dubbo network in place.
- Temporary leadership changes in north region were outlined.
- The increase in ED presentations at Bathurst are due to fever clinic presentations.
- Processes and plans for winter are underway.

## 13 **Quality, Clinical Safety and Nursing**

### 13.1 **Patient Story – Feedback re MPS and VRGS**

Mr Fahy spoke to the patient story which was noted by the Board. This patient story is to be tabled at the rural generalist stream meeting.

### 13.2 **Executive Director Quality, Clinical Safety and Nursing Report**

Mr Fahy spoke to the report which was noted by the Board highlighting:

- Hospital acquired pressure injuries and infections are under target
- There was a slight increase in falls. Cases are being looked at in more detail.
- The LHD is looking at hospital acquired respiratory complications and cognitive decline noting there are relatively small numbers for the LHD.
- A further meeting has been held with the family involved in the RCA at Gulgong. The family appreciated the feedback on the outcome of the RCA.

### 13.3 **Health Care Quality Committee (HCQC) Annual Review Document 2020**

Director O'Brien spoke to the annual review document which was noted by the Board.

**13.4 HCQC Chair Comments**

Director O'Brien advised a HCQC meeting was not held in January.

**14 Medical and Dental Appointments Committee (MADAAC)**

**14.1 MADAAC meeting held 9 December 2020 draft minutes**

The draft minutes and recommendations from the MADAAC meeting were noted by the Board.

**14.2 MADAAC Chair Comments**

Director Treweeke, provided a summary of appointments made.

**15 District Medical Staff Executive Council (DMSEC)**

**15.1 DMSEC Representative Comments**

Dr Paul Bloomfield advised the January DMSEC meeting did not go ahead as a quorum was not reached. Dr Bloomfield noted:

- An update on the medical workforce planning process was requested. The CE advised an early draft was provided. Dr Spencer is in contact with Sydney University to progress this work.
- MSEC submitted an invitation to the UHPI to visit the LHD for one of the hearings.
- The RACP award for Dr Kerrigan (CE Report) is recognition of the impressive duration and level of service provided by Dr Kerrigan.
- Changes with medical schools (CSU in Orange) is progressing well. There has been positive interaction with the university and LHD re clinical support for students.
- He was interviewed as part of the review of medical administration across the LHD. There was open and good discussion looking at processes, structures, opportunities for improvement.

The upcoming recruitment of vacant Board members was discussed including the nomination process for clinicians to be endorsed by the DMSEC.

**16 General Business and Business Without Notice**

**16.1 Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Update**

Mr Spittal spoke to the report which was noted by the Board.

A discussion was held included the growing awareness of the need for support for children and young people. It was noted the recruitment to mental health positions in northern sites has been difficult hence the outreach service from Dubbo.

Mr Spittal spoke to changes in mental health over recent years ie increase in community services vs hospital beds.

**16.2 Western NSW Rural Health Precincts**

Mr McLachlan spoke to the brief and supporting documents which were noted by the Board noting the Bathurst master plan is to come to the Board next month.

The document does not capture how the project is to be funded. This will follow after there has been dialogue with Treasury.

**16.3 2021 LHD Boards Refresh**

The Chair spoke to the letter from the Ministry which was noted by the Board. A brief discussion was held which noted recruitment includes an EOI for the position of Board Chair. The Chair advised he has had discussions with a number of interested people. It was noted the departing members have brought dedication and vast experience to their roles on the Board.

**16.4 Board Site Visits**

**16.4.1 6 & 7 April 2021**

New itineraries are to be prepared based on the discussion held.

**16.4.2 4 & 5 May 2021**

The site visits will be move to June. New itineraries are to be prepared based on the discussion held.

**Action:**

Site visit itineraries for April and June to be prepared.

Action by: Ms Nott Action Due: ASAP

**17 Reflection of Meeting**

A brief discussion was held.

**There being no further business the meeting was closed at 3.37 pm**

Signed:  Date: 03 March 2021