

Western NSW LHD Board Meeting March 2021  
Downstairs Meeting Room, Hawthorn St Dubbo  
Wednesday 3 Mar 2021, 8:30 — 12:45 AEDT

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The meeting commenced at 8.30 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, John Walkom (joined 11.45am).

### **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 Mark Rice, DMSEC; Lauren Nott, Secretariat.

**1 Apologies**  
Nil

**2 Conflicts of Interest**  
Nil to add

**3 Draft minutes of Board meetings held 3 February 2021**  
Minutes of the Board meeting held 3 February 2021 were endorsed by the Board.

**4 Action Register from Board meeting held 3 February 2021**  
Progress on action items was noted.

**5 Chair Report**  
The Chair advised there have been several Secretary briefings re COVID – vaccination roll out, Upper House Parliamentary Inquiry.  
The Board Conference has been postponed until later in year however the Board Chairs will hold a meeting. Recruitment process for new Board members across the state. Applications have closed. A number of people have contacted the Chair for information. .

**6 Chief Executive Report**  
Mr McLachlan spoke to the report which was noted by the Board and highlighted:

- High level of ED activity due to cold and flu issues
- Elective surgery has progressed (refer Operations report)
- Mark Coulton, MP and Rural Health Commissioner will be visiting the LHD for a week. PHN and RDN will be in attendance at a Dunedoo community meeting.
- Aged Care Royal Commission report released.
- Cowra Hospital redevelopment - \$500k is for master planning, schematics, which will be underway in April.
- Bathurst MRI – application for a license is in process however this has not yet been granted. Protocols will be in place to ensure appropriate and efficient use.
- The DMSEC supported the expressions of interest for two clinicians.

### **6.1 WNSWLHD Performance Scorecard**

The scorecard was noted by the Board and a brief discussion held. While the People Matter survey was not held in 2020 the LHD conducted a 'pulse' survey targeting key areas as identified in the previous People Matter survey.

#### **Action**

Results of staff pulse survey conducted in 2020 by the LHD to come to the Board.

Action: Sandra Duff Action due: 5 May 2021

### **6.2 NSW Health League Table**

The league table was noted by the Board.

## **7 Planning, Performance and Funding**

### **7.1 Performance Report**

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

- Favourable result for January
- Reimbursement for COVID is running approx. one month behind expenditure. There is no guarantee reimbursements will continue.

### **7.2 Finance & Performance Committee 23 February 2021 draft minutes**

The draft minutes of the F&P Committee were noted by the Board.

### **7.3 Finance & Performance Committee Chair Comments**

The Chair highlighted the budget process. The Board supported Director Bennett taking over the role of Chair, Finance and Performance Committee in March 2021.

Discussion held re departing Board members' role in sub-committees. With members departing, there will be changes to sub-committee memberships. There will be further discussion around this in the future.

*Mr Adrian Fahy joined the meeting.*

## **8 Presentation: Vaccination Program**

*Ms Leanne Casey, COVID Vaccination and Secondary Staffing Coordinator joined the meeting.*

Ms Casey provided a presentation (refer to papers) and a discussion was held.

*Ms Casey left the meeting.*

## **9 Clinical Operations**

### **9.1 Executive Director Clinical Operations Report**

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

- It is anticipated elective surgery for the LHD will be back on track by 30 June.
- Winter preparation planning is underway – plans and challenges were outlined.
- Two rural sector GMs have accepted roles in other LHD's. An EOI has been released to replace these roles for 15 weeks pending permanent recruitment. Mr Spittal acknowledged the work undertaken by Megan Connor and Brian Bonham.
- Flu vaccine planning outlined. This needs to tie in with COVID vaccination planning.

- vCare transfers to larger facilities from rural facilities discussed.

## 10 Quality, Clinical Safety and Nursing

### 10.1 Patient Story - Narromine

Mr Fahy spoke to the patient story which was noted by the Board.

### 10.2 Executive Director Quality, Clinical Safety and Nursing Report

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

- While there were no harm score 1 incidents over January there were four falls with fractures – three at smaller facilities
- Review of harm scores has shown a small number of incidents have been downgraded. It was also be noted there have been a larger number of incidents upgraded.
- Recommendations following the review of Dr Gayed was discussed at HCQC. A body of work is being done with CEC to ensure recommendations are fully rolled out and there are good governance processes in place within the LHD.
- Aboriginal Health targets were discussed including discharge against medical advice and patients not waiting for care . Patient experience staff in ED at Orange Hospital have made a considerable difference to Aboriginal health measures. Other tools and techniques such as yarning circles do make a difference and need to be rolled out across the LHD. Three additional Aboriginal liaison staff have recently been employed at Dubbo. This should assist with improving communication and support processes.

#### Action

To clarify broader medical/legal responsibility of LHD staff when patients self-discharge. Is there scope to put something on place for Aboriginal people based on cultural grounds?

Action by: Adrian Fahy Action due: 05 May 2021

### 10.3 Health Care Quality Committee (HCQC) Meeting 24 February 2021

The draft minutes of the HCQC were noted by the Board.

### 10.4 HCQC Chair Comments

Director O'Brien advised:

- No overdue RCAs as at the end of November.
- Presentation on Oral Health indicated they have long waiting which impacts on clients' ongoing health. Questions were raised around the accountability of services provided under the voucher system. How does the LHD know the standard of care provided by private providers who receive vouchers?
- Maternity report included in HCQC papers coincides with mandatory self-assessment paper sent to LHD. HCQC to hold out of session meeting to address some of the issues raised in the report.
- RCA incidents from Bourke. Concern was raised that ongoing issues were not detected earlier. The Board needs assurance that safeguards are in place. Mr Fahy advised a number of challenges have been identified and are being worked on. There are triggers in place and leader and clinical rounding processes should highlight issues before metrics are impacted.
- Coroner's cases – these go to the Audit and Risk Committee and then to HCQC to ensure recommendations are followed up. A discussion was held as to how lessons learnt and recommendations are shared across the LHD from coroner reports and RCAs and how this could be improved.

## **11 Medical and Dental Appointments Committee (MADAAC)**

### **11.1 MADAAC meeting held 17 February 2021 draft minutes**

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

### **11.2 MADAAC Chair Comments**

Director Treweeke provided a summary of appointments made.

*Director Walkom joined the meeting.*

## **12 District Clinical Council (DCC)**

### **12.1 DCC meeting held 17 February 2021 draft minutes**

The draft minutes of the DCC were noted by the Board.

## **13 District Medical Staff Executive Council (DMSEC), Dr Mark Rice**

### **13.1 DMSEC Representative Comments**

Dr Rice advised there was no meeting in January due to lack of quorum. General points recently raised include:

- UPHI – Submissions were made by the DMSEC and Orange MSC
- Medical schools are progressing with recruiting staff
- EOI for Board positions - two applicants were supported by the DMSEC.
- NSW state MSEC have yet to meet this year. Will raise SMH articles re alleged downgrading of RCA's.

## **14 General Business and Business Without Notice**

### **14.1 Upper House Parliamentary Inquiry**

The CE spoke to the brief which was noted by the Board. A discussion was held.

- Further submissions were made public last Friday.
- Localities for hearings have been announced. Hearings will be held in rural regions including Cobar, Dubbo and Wellington.
- NSW Health is conducting an assessment of all submissions.
- The potential impact on staff has been acknowledged and support is being put in place.
- More information will come to the Board next month.

### **14.2 WNSWLHD 2021 Capital Investment Proposals**

The CE spoke to the briefing document which was noted by the Board. A discussion was held.

It was noted Coonabarabran was previously listed. Work has and is being undertaken at Coonabarabran that means it no longer a priority for the list.

#### **Recommendation**

The Board discussed the proposed Top 5 Capital Investment Proposals for 2021. The Board supports the list as outlined:

1. Blayney MPS
2. Bathurst Health Service
3. WNSW LHD Blue Health Worker Accommodation Plan

- 4. Dubbo Stages 5&6
- 5. MPS Stage 6

All members were in agreeance

#### 14.3 Future Aged Care - Blayney

Mr Carey spoke to the brief and supporting documents. A discussion was held. The Board noted:

- the current issues surrounding the future of residential aged care provision in Blayney, and the findings of the feasibility study.
- the broader policy implications for aged care service provision in rural NSW
- Uraba Village, Carcoar have indicated they are not interested in joining LHD (opt 1).

#### Recommendation

The Board noted options 1 and 3 and endorsed option 2 as the preferred option of an aggregated approach to service provision with existing providers, including liaison and negotiation with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and other key stakeholders.

All members were in agreeance

#### 14.4 Bathurst Master Plan

Mr Spittal spoke to the brief and supporting documents. The Board noted the BHS redevelopment is being considered for inclusion in the District's Strategic Asset Management Plan.

A discussion was held which included concern at population projections. It was noted these are based on NSW Planning data. Other concerns include the total restricted area and lack of parking facilities.

#### Action

Board to be updated further with preferred options for the Bathurst Master Plan.  
Action by: Josh Carey Action due: 02 June 2020

#### 14.5 Revised Site Visits - April and June

A brief discussion was held. The site visits as proposed for April were endorsed. Ms Nott to make appropriate arrangements.  
June site visits itinerary to be prepared.

#### 15 Reflection of Meeting

A brief discussion was held. It was agreed the presentations were excellent however the Board could have provided further explanation in regard to the strategic planning session of what they expected to allow deeper discussion. Good to see previous feedback has been taken on.

**There being no further business the meeting was closed at 12.45 pm**

Signed:  Date: 7 April 2021