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## Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of the Board of the Far West Local Health District

Date: 27 March 2023

Time: 12.45pm AEDT (12.15pm ACDT)

Venue: Meeting Room, Buronga HealthOne Facility, Buronga and via Microsoft Teams

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### Present:

#### Members:

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Mr Brad Astill       | Chief Executive |
| Dr Andrew Refshauge  | Board Chair     |
| Mr Wincen Cuy        | A/Board Chair   |
| A/Prof Lilon Bandler | Board Member    |
| Mr Justin Files      | Board Member    |
| Mr Jason Masters     | Board Member    |
| Ms Sally Pearce      | Board Member    |
| Ms Pam Tucker        | Board Member    |

#### In Attendance:

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Ms Apsara Kahawita | Director Finance and Corporate Services           |
| Ms Olivia Sice     | Intern, Business Management, Chief Executive Unit |
| Ms Hannah Everuss  | Board, Committees and Policy Officer (Minutes)    |

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**Meeting Opened** 12.15PM AEST/ 11.45AM ACDT

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### Item 1. Welcome to Country

The acting Board Chair invited the Executive Manager Aboriginal Health and Community Relations to provide the Welcome to Country, 'We acknowledge and pay respects to Elders, past, present and emerging, acknowledge the lands the Board are meeting in Buronga, that of the Barkandji Nation, those who are dialling in and the lands they belong.

Acknowledgement to Country: The Far West Local Health District acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands within its boundaries including: the Barkandji; the Muthi Muthi; the Wilyakali; the Ngiyampaa; the Wadigali; the Malyangaba; and the Wangkumara. We acknowledge and pay respects to the Elders past and present and their ancient wisdoms. We also acknowledge the communities of today and the Aboriginal community members who are part of our communities.

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### Item 2. Apologies

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Mr Paul Kemp            | Board Member |
| Ms Mariette Curcuruto   | Board Member |
| A/Prof Michelle Dickson | Board Member |

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### Item 3. Disclosure of Interest

Nil new disclosures of interest.

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## **Item 4. Order of Business/Urgent Business**

The Board in camera and Board and Chief Executive in camera were moved to the end of the meeting.

### **Item 4.1 Acknowledgement of Land Lease Agreement at Buronga HealthOne**

Ms Kathy Potter local Barkandji woman attended the Buronga HealthOne and met with the Board to acknowledge the land lease agreement. Kathy advised that Leroy and Trish Johnson were apologies. Discussed was the excitement of the Community to have a local health facility in Buronga and Wentworth on the NSW side of the river. The Community wish to stay on the river, it is the heart of healing and Community. In regard to the Wentworth Hospital development, a Walk on Country was completed with Aunty Claire at the redevelopment site for the Wentworth Hospital. Storytelling will be shared through the architecture, art and landscaping of the new facility. The Communities have noted the concepts the architects have incorporated into the building designs such as the red river gum, brick works replicating the river at Buronga and scar tree roof idea, with wooden posts in Wentworth.

The Board thanked Ms Potter for her time and collaboration with Health in regard to the projects and noted the significant relationship and agreement as a first for NSW Health.

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## **Item 5. Minutes of Ordinary Board Meeting 27 February 2023**

**Resolution:**                    **The Minutes of the Ordinary Board meeting held on 27 February 2023**  
Moved Pamela Tucker, seconded Jason Masters, and Carried.

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## **Item 6. Action List**

### **Item 22 – 19 Lead Program**

**Ongoing.** The Chief Executive advised in response to letters forwarded by Board Chair Andrew Refshauge and Broken Hill City Council regarding the Lead situation in Broken Hill, a meeting had occurred with the Office of Premier and Cabinet, NSW Primary Industries, the regional NSW body and Environmental Protection Authority. NSW Health provided background regarding lead programs, what had previously occurred and how current lead prevention programs operate. A meeting had also occurred with Broken Hill Council and Maari Ma Aboriginal Health Corporation. Discussion was had around the resources to treat consequences of lead and early childhood education to overcome developmental delays due to lead exposure. It was noted that unfortunately Broken Hill and surrounds do not have ready access to developmental professionals. A further meeting will occur in early April 2023.

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## **Strategic Matters**

### **Item 7 Reflections on Our Care**

#### **Item 7.1 Participant Story - Jacob**

The Board noted the participant story and noted the current overtime pressures facing the workforce. The FWLHD are monitoring burnout but unfortunately with labour shortages worldwide do not have a short term fix.

## **Item 7.2 Patient Story**

Nil story tabled.

## **Item 8 Presentation**

Nil presentation tabled due to remote site meeting. The Director of Finance and Corporate Services was in attendance as the Executive Team representative.

## **Item 9 KPI Reports**

### **Item 9.1 KPI Dashboard Report**

The KPI Dashboard report for February 2023 was discussed with actions in place to address hospital acquired infections. It was noted that endocrine complications had decreased and Transfer of Care (ToC) has reached above target threshold. This can be partly attributed to the implementation of My Emergency Doctor (MED).

Currently FWLHD are conducting a review to increase theatre efficiency. The Board discussed the urology waitlist and the Chief Executive advised that patients were categorised on clinical priority, ongoing urology availability and timeliness of attendance. FWLHD have entered discussions with the Ministry and will work to match the need and demand of the community in regard to outpatient clinics and theatre hours. Recommendations for efficiency improvements will come from external experts from the Ministry of Health.

The Board noted the Key Performance Indicator Dashboard report.

### **Item 9.2 Chief Executive Report**

The Chief Executive, Mr Brad Astill noted key points within the report.

- The FWLHD are discussing with the Ministry the classification in which the FWLHD have fallen within the Modified Monash Model used to rate for the rural workforce incentives scheme. FWLHD are surrounded by other equally rated LHD's and therefore have not been any more successful in attracting staff since the implementation of the incentives.
- FWLHD are partnering with Sydney LHD for a senior experienced nurse from RPA to complete an eight week rotation in the BHHS ED for the next six months. The project has been welcomed and encouraged by both Sydney LHD and BHHS ED staff. The FWLHD will be encouraging those on rotation to share their experiences to gain feedback. As there is a difference in clinical presentations from RPA and BHHS ED staff are enjoying the opportunity whilst gaining experience and an adventure without being locked in permanently.
- RPA have been successful in overseas recruitment and will work with the FWLHD to provide staff on a six month rotational basis for general nursing. The FWLHD are hoping that staff may be keen to work at remote sites to fill vacancies.
- Further discussions with RPA are being had in regard to haemodialysis, rehabilitation, phone a friend model for ED providing another experienced set of eyes particularly after hours and the Senior Nurse Assist model for remote services.
- FWLHD attended a Collaborative Care Meeting focusing on relationships and partnerships as sponsored by the Rural Doctors Network, funded by the

Commonwealth. The current program is being attended by the Rural Doctor's Network, Primary Health Network, Coomealla Health Aboriginal Corporation and the Broken Hill University Department of Rural Health. Discussed was the ongoing general practitioner service provision in Wentworth and Balranald.

- FWLHD CE met with Maari Ma CE in which joint projects were discussed with the view of positive engagement to continue. Going forward the organisations will meet monthly and will discuss the possibility of rekindling the partnership agreement.
- With new laws regarding voluntary assisted dying, FWLHD are establishing a working group for the District to provide key liaison in regard to key policy guidelines. Funding has been provided by the Ministry to engage Senior Clinicians.

**Resolution: The Chief Executive Report be received and noted.**

Moved Jason Masters, seconded Sally Pearce. Carried.

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## **Matters for Decision**

### **Item 10 Reports for Endorsement**

#### **Item 10.1 FWLHD Board Sub Committee Membership Review**

The Board discussed Sub Committee Membership. Currently there did not seem to be any reason for significant change to the Committee membership. The Board requested the secretariat email out of session and retable the committee member review in April 2023 for endorsement.

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### **Item 11 Reports for Noting**

Nil.

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## **Matters for Discussion**

### **Item 12. Aboriginal Health**

#### **Item 12.1 Clinical Services**

##### **Item 12.1.1 Comparative Discharged Against Medical Advice Rates**

##### **Item 12.1.2 Comparative Did Not Wait Rates**

##### **Item 12.1.3 Admission rates compared with population numbers**

Nil reports tabled, due next May 2023.

### **Item 12.2 Workforce**

#### **Item 12.2.1 Workforce Participation Rates**

The Board noted the Aboriginal Workforce Participation Rates report.

## **Item 12.3 External Relationships**

### **Item 12.3.1 Community Engagement Quarterly Report (due Mar, June, Sep, Dec)**

The Executive Manager Aboriginal Health and Community Relations joined the meeting to discuss the community engagement quarterly report. The Board noted the report. Key points discussed were:

- Mr Richard Weston newly appointed Chief Executive Maari Ma Aboriginal Corporation.
- Respect the Difference training target set by the Ministry as a State wide initiative, 90% of staff to have completed. Unlike FWLHD will meet the target due to staff shortages. Minor changes have been made to the training package to ensure a more productive learning session for the face to face full day component.
- National Reconciliation Week and Sorry Day scheduled from 2 - 9 May 2023 and Naidoc week in July 2023.
- Currently work is being undertaken in regard to increasing the opportunities for Aboriginal Health Practitioners to complete their training in Broken Hill as part of the FWLHD Workforce Strategy.
- Cultural gatherings are occurring on a monthly and bimonthly basis meeting with Aboriginal Medical Services.
- Health Council engagement are the main issues being experienced in White Cliffs. There has been a concern raised regarding power outages in the area by Central Darling Shire. It has been reported that emergency services or the hospital are unable to make call outs. The Executive Manager advised that this would be confirmed to ensure whether or not the hospital had access to a generator in the event of a power outage.
- Over the last three months there have been ten to fifteen new health councillors commence across the FWLHD. A community open day has been held in Menindee which was successful in recruiting two new councillors. A monthly Health Council Chairs meeting has been reinstated improving engagement with Health Councils.

The Board requested that the dates in which the Health Council Chair meetings are held, be circulated out of session to rotate attendance of a Board Member. The Executive Manager Aboriginal Health and Community Relations advised that a Youth Health Advisory Committee was also being established and queried if there was any particular interest from Board Members to become a representative on this Committee. Board Member Jason Masters had expressed interest in this Committee. It was noted that approximately one hour per month was required and that virtual attendance would be supported.

### **Item 12.3.2 Maari Ma and Coomealla Health**

The Board noted that a face to face meeting was scheduled to be held with Coomealla Health Aboriginal Corporation following the Board meeting today.

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## **Item 13. Sustainability**

Nil.

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## **Item 14 Board Sub Committee Reports**

### **Item 14.1 Safety and Quality Board Sub Committee Meeting**

#### **Item 14.1.2 Safety and Quality Committee Chair Summary Report**

#### **Item 14.1.3 Patient Safety and Clinical Quality Report**

The February 2023 (January 2023 data) Patient Safety and Clinical Quality report was tabled. The Board noted the report and discussed the completion of SAERs. It was noted that the completion of SAERs was improving with recommendations implemented. It was noted that middle managers and educators were often completing shifts on wards due to staff vacancies and therefore sometimes holding up the implementation and completion of recommendations however oversight has been implemented to assist.

#### **Item 14.1.3 Draft Quality and Safety Committee Minutes 27 February 2023**

Noted.

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## **Item 14.2 Finance, Performance and Workforce**

### **Item 14.2.1 Finance, Performance and Workforce Committee Chair Report**

The Chair of the Finance, Performance and Workforce Committee advised that the Committee were pleased with the new finance reporting template.

The Committee discussed the staffing shortage being experienced by the State and the effects it is having on the FWLHD Workforce. The Committee discussed the strategies that are being implemented to ensure a safe workforce.

Initial analysis regarding Emergency DNW rates since November 2022 has seen a significant improvement since the commencement of My Emergency Doctor (MED) project at the end of November 2022.

### **Item 14.2.2 Finance, Performance and Workforce Committee Minutes**

The Board noted the 20 February 2023 minutes.

### **Item 14.2.3 Finance Report February 2023**

Ms Apsara Kahawita, Director Finance and Corporate Services provided a verbal overview of the February 2023 Finance Report. The key points of the Finance report were:

- Expense performance is stable and is consistent with previous months.
- Revenue gap is increasing. In January 2023 FWLHD own source revenue budget target increased from \$3.4M to \$3.9M. The District are focusing on areas such as patient/ facility fees, grants and any intrahealth expenses that may help to generate any further revenue. The Ministry are aware that the FWLHD is very unlikely to meet this target and have discussed that the own source revenue budget is unrealistic due to the finite revenue opportunities in the Far West. The FWLHD are planning to write formally to the Ministry to further resolve.
- FWLHD by the end of January 2023 had over delivered on activity by 108 NWAU, however is within budget.

The Board discussed the agreement between Sportsmed and FWLHD in regard to overdue waitlist surgeries. It was noted that patients can choose to have surgery in Adelaide with this being funded by the FWLHD. This is seen as a solution to provide service delivery to the community. Travel costs of the patient and required escort will be covered by the FWLHD with IPTAAS compensation applicable.

The Board noted the verbal report provided.

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Apsara Kahawita left the meeting at 1.30PM AEDT/ 1.00PM ACDT.

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### **Item 14.3 Audit and Risk**

#### **Item 14.3.1 Audit and Risk Committee Chair Summary Report**

#### **Item 14.3.2 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes**

#### **Item 14.3.3 Risk Management Unit – Work, Health and Safety Report**

Nil tabled reports. Next ARC meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday 28 March 2023.

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### **Item 15. Business on Notice**

Nil.

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### **Item 16. Calendar of Events**

#### **Item 16.1 Calendar of Events 2023**

The Board noted the 2023 calendar of events.

It was requested that the Secretariat confirm the White Cliffs Health Council meeting date as it falls on Monday 2 October 2023, the October long weekend.

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### **Item 17. Correspondence**

Nil.

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### **Item 18. Other Business**

The Board discussed dental service provision within the FWLHD.

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### **Meeting Finalisation**

#### **Item 20. Next Meeting**

Monday 24 April 2023

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### **Meeting Close**

2.33pm AEDT/ 2.03pm ACDT

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**Certified as a correct record.**

Andrew Refshauge  
Name

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Signature

24 April 2023  
Date