



## WA Country Health Service Board

*Modernising how we govern and manage WA Health for better care and better value*

### Why has a Health Service Board been appointed?

- The *Health Services Act 2016* commenced 1 July 2016 to modernise the WA public health system, setting out how we govern, structure and manage WA Health to bring decision-making closer to service delivery and patient care.
- The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) has been established as a separate statutory authority, governed by a Board that is legally responsible and accountable for the delivery of safe, high-quality and efficient health services.

### Who is on the WACHS Board?

- The WACHS Board is comprised of nine highly capable and committed professionals with a diverse range of experience across the fields of medicine and health care, finance, law, and community and consumer engagement.
- Members were selected following a rigorous selection process and bring a wealth of skills and experience to the board.

### Board Chair

- **Dr Neale Fong** is a registered medical practitioner, president of the Australasian College of Health Service Management and a former Director General of WA Health. Dr Fong has over 30 years' experience in medical and health care delivery and leadership roles holding senior positions in all health care sectors covering government, private hospitals, academia and research, public health, aged care and not for profit organisations. Dr Fong is currently the Chair of Bethesda Hospital, a consultant to Curtin University on the establishment of WA's third medical school, Professor of Healthcare Leadership and a director of a number of companies.

### Board Members

- **Ms Wendy Newman (Deputy Chair)** is currently the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Wheatbelt Development Commission and has extensive experience as a board member on rural and remote advisory committees and boards, such as the Board of Regional Development Australia – Wheatbelt and Rural Remote Education Advisory Council. Ms Newman brings with her a keen understanding of issues affecting rural communities.
- **Mr Michael Hardy** is an experienced lawyer and has a comprehensive background in briefing boards on their governance responsibilities and knowledge of administrative law principles. Mr Hardy sat on the Legislative Review and Advisory Committee, and is currently a member of the Rules Committee State Administrative Tribunal.
- **Dr Daniel Heredia** is Director of Medical Services at Hollywood Private Hospital, and sits on the hospital's Research and Ethics Committee. Dr Heredia has robust skills in medical administration and clinical governance and comes with significant board experience as the current Member of the Medical Board of Australia (WA Board) Performance and Chair of the Professional Standards Committee.
- **Dr Kim Isaacs** is currently a GP practising at Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service and has previously held medical roles at Royal Perth Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital and Alice Springs Hospital. A Yaruwu, Karajarri and Noongar woman, Dr Isaacs has a background in rural and remote medicine and Aboriginal primary health care. Dr Isaacs is passionate about developing young people and has previously been a board member of the True Blue Dreaming Youth Mentoring Program and Alumni of the Fellowship Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.

- **Mr Joshua Nisbet** is currently manager of the Next Generation Operation Centre at Rio Tinto Iron Ore and has a background in human resources and organisational psychology. Mr Nisbet also has experience in employee relations and rehabilitation services. Mr Nisbet is a Fellow of Leadership WA and has served on a number of boards including Ostara Australia and the WA Association for Mental Health.
- **Mrs Mary Anne Stephens** is a highly experienced senior executive with over 25 years' experience leading large teams within financial services, information technology and the not-for-profit sector. Mrs Stephens is a certified practicing accountant and is currently Chief Financial Officer of the Autism Association of WA. Mrs Stephens has extensive experience in advising and managing audit, risk and insurance matters.
- **Mr Alan Ferris** is Associate Director at BDO Australia and has significant senior experience in Government and not-for-profit sectors. A Certified Public Accountant, Mr Ferris was previously acting Director General of the Department of Culture and the Arts, where he also served as Chief Financial Officer for seven years. Mr Ferris is a former Mayor and council member of the Town of East Fremantle, and has extensive board experience including as a member of the WA Planning Commission, Executive Property and Finance Committee and the Leadership Western Australia Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.
- **Ms Meredith Waters** is an active community representative on boards and has been heavily involved in the WA country health and community sectors in both professional and voluntary capacities. A community representative on the South East Goldfields District Health Advisory Council for WA Country Health, Ms Waters boasts significant committee and board experience and is currently secretary of the Esperance Care Services Board, and a member of the Esperance Community Arts committee, the Hope FM Community Radio Station Board, and the Esperance Local Drug Action Group Committee.

### What are the benefits to patients, our workforce and the community?

- Health Service Boards will bring a diverse range of skills and experience to ensure the delivery of safe, high-quality and sustainable health care to our communities.
- Greater local authority and accountability for the delivery of health services to the community.
- More responsive and innovative health services to meet local needs, including greater focus on local networks and partnerships to deliver care closer to home.
- Improvements to the performance of our Health Services over time, for example, in clinical safety and quality outcomes, financial performance and the patient experience.

### More information

- Fact sheets and more detailed information on Health Service Boards and Chairs and Members are available on the WA Health website [ww2.health.wa.gov.au/boards](http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/boards)
- Email: [health.reform@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:health.reform@health.wa.gov.au)

### Related Fact Sheets

- *The Role of Health Services and Boards*
- *Changes to the governance of WA Health*
- *The Health Services Act 2016: A Snapshot*
- *The Role of the Department of Health*
- *The Role of Health Support Services*
- *WA Health Reform Program 2015-2020*