

Western NSW Local Health District
 Western NSW LHD Annual Public Meeting
 Parkes Services Club, 9-17 Short Street Parkes
 Wednesday 6 Nov 2019, 12:00pm – 1:00pm AEDT

WELCOME/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The meeting commenced at 12.00pm with the Chair providing an Acknowledgement of Country.

Attendance of Board Members

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

In Attendance

Scott McLachlan, Chief Executive; Mark Spittal, Executive Director Operations; Josh Carey, Executive Director Finance; Lauren Nott, Board Secretariat; Kathy Connell, Executive Director Communication and Engagement

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

Apologies

John Walkom (Board) and health council representatives as per registration list.

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 John Walkom, Board member and Mr Mark Spittal, Director of Operations were verbally introduced to the meeting and their input and work to date recognized.

The Chair outlined the Board's role to support the District to navigate through a constant changing environment. Safety and quality, complex health and social needs, financial responsibility and workforce remain areas of focus for the District.

Over the past 12 months, the Board has met across a number of facilities and met with local leaders and welcomed the opportunity for rounding with staff.

The District is a strong performer and a benchmark for other Districts. The Chair acknowledged the operating environment forecast for the next ten years will challenge the District.

Chief Executive Address – Mr Scott McLachlan

Mr McLachlan 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 LHD, 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 2018-19 Financial results including key achievements.

There is increased pressure on the District. Over the 2018-19 financial year the district was 0.02% unfavorable.

Moving forward, there will be a tighter fiscal environment in which the District will need to operate.

Questions and Open Discussion

The Chief Executive opened the floor for questions:

Attendance at Health Council meetings (Cowra) – The Board would be happy to receive any invitations to attend Health Council meetings. Tottenham Health Council commented they have had a board member videoconference into their meeting and it has worked well.

Annual Public Meeting Presentations (Nyngan) – The Board agreed to provide a copy of presentations to Health Councils to share with colleagues who were unable to attend the meeting.

Aged care (Nyngan) – Nyngan representative commented that in the presentations there was no section on MPS Residential Aged Care eg number of beds, occupancy and overall financial situation. The Board and District recognised the MultiPurpose Services for their work and commitment to aged care and noted that aged care across Western NSW continues to remain a priority service for the District.

Murray Darling Medical School and training pathways for students (Orange) – The Medical School is a positive development for the region. There are a number of training pathways and universities having a footprint in the District. The intent of Murray Darling is good, with students not expected to be graduated for another seven years. The biggest need for change is around supportive training solutions in smaller facilities and attractive packages for new graduates to attract them to the region.

Stages 5 & 6 redevelopment at Dubbo Hospital (Dubbo) – Dubbo Health Council requested the District to commence planning and sourcing of funding to support stages 5 & 6. The District advised there was no current commitment from the Ministry of Health but discussions are occurring.

Environmental Footprint (Dubbo) – Dubbo Health Council asked what strategies the LHD had in place for recycling and using renewable energy. The CE spoke to the work that is being explored by the Future Health Leaders group who are creating a taskforce to explore the District's environmental footprint. It is acknowledged that the District has a long way to go but work is being considered.

Attracting and retaining medical workforce (Cobar) – The District needs to do more to attract and retain medical workforce through incentive packages and establishing a GP pathway. The Ministry of Health is looking at a recruitment and retention packages and additional incentives. The CE is meeting with the Department of Health (Commonwealth) this week to discuss ongoing workforce planning issues.

Solar Panels (Tullamore) – There was a comment that new facilities are being built without solar panels. The District acknowledged that some facilities have solar panels installed that are not working. The District has a contract to upgrade facilities including solar roof panels, upgrades to hot water systems and air-conditioning units. It is acknowledged that there have been some new builds without these upgrades.

Increase in presentation numbers to Emergency Departments (Mudgee) – Mudgee Health Council asked what models were being looked at to bridge the divide between the hospital and GP practices. The District acknowledge the increasing demand for services at Mudgee which is a priority to find a different solution to support health care in the community. The District is undertaking work in a number of communities stepping in as a provider of general practice services. The District is meeting with the Department of Health (Commonwealth) which will provide an opportunity to look at possible solutions and challenge current Medicare arrangements and explore opportunities to step into employer of Primary Care and GP services for some communities.

Private Health Insurance Rebates (Bathurst) – Advice was sought on the impact of changes to private health insurance rebates. The District advised the impact is expected to be approx. \$5m per annum for the Western region.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.05 pm