

Notes from LHD Board Annual Public Meeting 3rd November 2015, Cobar

Welcome by Dr Robin Williams

Acknowledgment of Country given

Apologies – Liliane Brady

Scott McLachlan and Josh Carey gave a power-point presentation “Our Improvement Journey and Strategy to make a Difference”.

Questions from the floor

1. Repatriation to Bathurst – where were people going before?
Lindsey Gough answered – a lot went to Sydney (eg Knee and hip replacements). These can now be done closer to home.
2. Dialysis in Cowra and Forbes – is this a new building?
Scott McLachlan answered – Forbes is new, Cowra is refurbishment
3. What is the process moving forward re new MPS for Cobar?
Scott McLachlan answered –
 - Look at population needs and services. This is done with Mary Urquhart (HSM)
 - This then goes to State and put on capital works list
 - Then look at what is combined in the MPS eg ED, Community Health, General Practice, Aged Care, Ambulatory Care. There will be consultation with Shire Council re Liliane Brady Village
 - Options will be available to the community
 - Ministry of Health goes to Cabinet to get funds approved. This needs to happen before May 2016.

Option 1 – extend hospital to include aged care

Option 2 – build a new hospital next to the Liliane Brady Village (this is the preferred option)

The LHD is very aware that it needs to consult with the community about what is done with Liliane Brady Village and with aged care.

The project would increase the number of aged care beds to 34 – an increase of 10 beds.

Although the Shire Council hands over Liliane Brady Village to the LHD, the LHD would be looking for someone to manage the aged care section. The LHD may need to look at a strategic partner across the District to run aged care as a business. For the LHD to run it with the staff profile, it would mean running at a loss of \$700,000. Another provider could have contemporary aged care models of practice.

4. Is there a possibility the two facilities could remain independent?
Scott McLachlan answered – aged care is not core business of Shire Council. But a different provider may make it independent.
Mary Urquhart added – the benefit is treating people in their own bed.

Gordon Hill (HC Chair) – would like to keep people in their own home and then they go to the Liliame Brady Village as the last end.

Robin Williams added – keeping people well in their own home is best.

Scott McLachlan added – integrated care for the over 75 year of age is a good model.

An audience member commented that it would be good to have self-care units close to the MPS.

5. Gordon Hill asked about oncology support in the community.

Scott McLachlan answered – recruited Florian who is providing outreach to two sites – Cobar is one of them.

Mary Urquhart added that Cobar got the outreach service as the Health Council wrote requesting help.

6. Community member asked about midwifery services for Cobar.

Scott McLachlan answered – No birthing to be done in Cobar. There is no GP Obstetrician. A lot of work is going into improving ante-natal and post-natal care, travel and accommodation assistance (4 motels in Dubbo have agreed to bulk bill IPTAAS). The LHD is committed to ensuring mothers are well connected to care.

Jeanie McMillan (NUM Cobar) added that integrated care looking at pregnancy and post-natal care. Denise at the medical centre does ante natal care. This can be done in a shared care model and let people know about the motels bulk billing.

Mary Urquhart added that mothers have access through Telehealth to the breast feeding consultants plus the community nurse is doing a breast feeding course.

Gary Woodman (Shire GM) commented that in a town of 4.5 GPs that non can deliver 60 babies?

Mary Urquhart replied that 2001 was the last GP obstetric delivery and the rest was with CAS and Nurse and the camera.

Dr John Tooth commented that you want a safe service and not a local service. The LHD encourages post-natal care to be done locally. He added that 18 deliveries/year can't keep up currency of practice- this is a requirement of the registering authorities.

Meeting closed 7.00 pm.