

Record of the Western NSW Local Health District Annual Public Meeting held 1pm, 4 November 2016 at Condobolin Hospital

Present: Dr R Williams (Chair), J Canalese, P Mann, P Doolan S Griffiths, Julie Ann Maher, Amanda O'Brien, J Treweeke, Graham Parker

Attendance: S McLachlan, Lindsey Gough, Lauren Nott (minute taker), Illona Dunn, Kate Powers HSM, members of Condobolin staff and community

Apologies : J Carey

Acknowledgement of Country given by Chair

Welcome given by Dr Williams, GP VMO and Chair of Board

Dr Williams welcomed all those in attendance and introductions were made.

Chief Executive Address - Scott McLachlan

Thanked all especially recognising contribution of local health councils.

Board has an appreciation of some of the facilities in need of updating. CE will take this back to look at future plans.

Presentation – Chief Executive

The 2015/2016 budget came in on budget last year. There are challenges in providing services in rural and remote communities however these are overcome with staff, specialist supports, infrastructure, telehealth and other solutions.

Resolution

1. That the accounts reflect the true position of the organisation's finances

Moved G Parker 2nd J Canalese all in agreement

2. In the opinion of the directors the organisation is able to pay its debts on and when they become due.

Moved G Parker 2nd J Canalese all in agreement

Open Discussion

The Chief Executive invited Leonie Parker to give an account of the excellent work she has been undertaking - **Empowering Aboriginal Women to Access Colposcopy and Gynaecology Services in Rural and Remote NSW**

Leonie Parker gave a brief run through of her work. Leonie has been a nurse practitioner in women's health of over 10 years and has put together a nurse led colposcopy service for Aboriginal women in the area. Previously a GP was providing a service from Orange AMS however this fell through. In partnership with LHD, Women's Hospital and others, the Colposcopy team have been providing colposcopy services for the past 4 years. This service provides a full service model including follow-ups, bringing clients into the service, follow up etc.

The project has won a number of awards including 2014 ACI innovation award at Western NSW LHD awards and also the NSW Health Secretary's Award for Aboriginal Health.

Leonie has been asked to speak at a number of events including Colposcopy and Cervical Workers Congress in Orlando later this year where she will be presenting the service, how it came about, what is done and where to in future.

Condobolin helipad

There was considerable discussion regarding a helipad for Condobolin with many mixed views in the community. A lot of funding raising has been done but it will cost considerably more than the amount raised to date. The LHD will support as much as possible but cannot support financially. There are some concerns re ongoing costs, viability, upkeep etc. Many nursing staff and ambulance staff are not fully supportive as the site chosen is not ideal. Some community members are concerned finances could be spent better elsewhere.

Discussion held re community emotions, need for helipad, value added etc. It was felt current emergency retrievals work well especially with other supports including cameras, PFU, etc.

Maintenance – Condobolin Hospital

Discussion held re maintenance issues within the Condobolin facility. It was acknowledged considerable work needs to be done to bring the hospital up to scratch.

S McLachlan spoke about Cobar hospital and the great work done at their facility; suggest HSMs to talk to see how this has happened and advised the issues raised will be considered.


It was suggested a strong commitment to improving maintenance may allay concerns if the helipad was not proceeded with.

S McLachlan committed to discuss the maintenance issues with L Gough and J Morrissey to prioritise maintenance work and will feedback to the HSM.

Flooding

A discussion held on the impact of the recent flooding and how well the staff supported the hospital during this time.

Dr Williams closed the meeting by thanking those in attendance

	Meeting closed 2.00pm			
	Minutes Endorsed: Chairperson  Date 07/12/16			