

Record of the Western NSW Local Health District Annual Public Meeting held 11.45am, 1 November 2017 at Savannah Room, Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo

Present: Mr Scott Griffiths (Chair), Ms Joan Treweeke, Dr Joe Canalese, Mr Jason Cooke, Ms Fiona Bennett, Dr Colin McClintock, Mr Darren Ah See, Ms Amanda O'Brien, Mr Paul Mann, Ms Julie Ann Maher

Attendance: Mr Scott McLachlan, Chief Executive; Ms Lindsey Gough, Director Operations; Mr Josh Carey, Director Finance; Ms Janet Shields, Secretariat, Illona Dunn, representatives from health councils, HSMs, members of the public.

Acknowledgement of Country given by Chair

Welcome given by Mr Scott Griffiths PSM, Chair of Board

Mr Griffiths welcomed all those in attendance and introductions were made. Mr Griffiths spoke on the Board refresh which took place as of 1 January 2017. He introduced the new Board members: Dr Colin McClintock, Fiona Bennett, Jason Cooke, Darren Ah See and acknowledged the members who retired: Dr Robin Williams, Pat Doolan, Graham Parker. The role and function of the Board was outlined including a summary of meetings, sub committees, site visits and meetings with key stakeholders.

Chief Executive Address - Scott McLachlan

Thanked all especially recognising contribution of local health councils. There are challenges in providing services in rural and remote communities however these are overcome with staff, specialist supports, infrastructure, telehealth and other solutions

Presentation – Chief Executive

Mr Scott McLachlan gave a presentation which included an outline of the district's facilities and services and reflected on the health needs of the district. Other areas highlighted included a patient feedback including a patient story, 2016/17 performance, staff engagement and workplace culture. A number of achievements were highlighted as were challenges going forward.

Presentation – Director Finance Josh Carey

The 2016/2017 budget came in on budget for the fourth consecutive year. Total budget was \$894M, with the final result \$280K unfavourable (0.03%). Challenges and achievements were highlighted.

The Board resolved that the accounts reflect the true position of the organisation's finances and in the opinion of the directors the organisation is able to pay its debts on and when they become due.

All Board members were in agreement.

Open Discussion

The Chief Executive opened up the floor to a general discussion and questions.

John Kellett (Bathurst) – raised concern re GPs not picking up issues early enough resulting in conditions worsening. Concern that GP is business driven model – ie fee for service.

CE response – Commonwealth is looking at changing the funding model. Integrated Care is also addressing these issues.

Cathy Maginnis (Dubbo) – raised that Dubbo redevelopment is funded piecemeal through stages without the full funding commitment. Other metro hospitals have the full funding committed to complete the project. Stages 5 & 6 are in the plan but there is no funding commitment.

Two Board members agreed with this frustration and disappointment. The Board is doing everything it can to ensure funding is forthcoming and in reminding the Minister of the need for equity.

Randolf Rindfleish (Dunedoo) – congratulated the Board on the minimal deficit it has achieved.

Jenni Brackenreg (Bathurst) – asked about Public Clinics. There are no bulk bill specialists in our LHD. There are some in Sydney.

CE response – there are public clinics by specialists with a number run in Bathurst. There is also an intent to increase cardiology services. A public eye clinic has also started in Dubbo.

Meeting closed 12.45pm

Mr Griffiths closed the meeting by thanking those in attendance

The meeting closed at 12.45pm