



Western Sydney Local Health District Board Strategy Day

The WSLHD Board met on 11 June 2019 for its Annual Board Strategy Day.

Guest speakers included Lucy Turnbull, Chief Commissioner, Greater Sydney Commission, and Carrie Marr, Chief Executive, Clinical Excellence Commission.

On behalf of the Board Chair, Richard Alcock AO, I would like to share the below summary of the presentations, discussions and decisions.

Regards

Graeme Loy
WSLHD Chief Executive

Board Strategy Day, 11 June 2019

Board Chair, Mr Richard Alcock, welcomed Board members and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land.

Mr. Graeme Loy, Chief Executive, WSLHD presented on his priorities. The Board received an update on the status of the LHD including key achievements and risks, and risk mitigation strategies. Board members asked questions regarding issues such as budget, workplace culture and commissioning of new and planned facilities. The Board requested further information from the Chief Executive regarding the Blacktown redevelopment and the commissioning model for Westmead.

Ms. Carrie Marr, Chief Executive, Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC), led a two-hour workshop on quality and safety focused on Board responsibilities. She reminded the Board that, ultimately, they are responsible for the clinical governance system and the clinical care provided by WSLHD.

The Board members discussed their role in ensuring quality and safety. They agreed that a culture of quality and safety is fostered through listening and responding to feedback from patients and their families, and from staff. They noted that people and culture, leadership, and strong systems are imperative for continuously improving quality and safety.

Ms. Lucy Turnbull, Chief Commissioner, Greater Sydney Commission, presented on the Commission's vision for the Greater Parramatta area and the important role of the LHD.

The Board discussed the Greater Sydney Commission's plan for the Greater Parramatta area, including how this plan integrated with the work of the District. Adj. Prof. Mick Reid, Board Member, presented on emerging trends in health care. He then facilitated a discussion on the related risks and opportunities for WSLHD. The Board discussed emerging trends over the next 18 months and placed these trends in the context of Western Sydney. Both sessions provided additional context for later discussions regarding integrated care, innovative care models, and research priorities.

Mr. Ray Messom, Executive Director, System Information and Analytics Branch, NSW Ministry of Health, provided a briefing to the Board on integrated care. The Board discussed the Ministry's proposed co-commissioning model for integrated care. In that model the LHD, PHN and other relevant stakeholders would co-manage a portion of their budgets, supplemented by some funding by the Ministry, to commission services for the community. Following discussion, the Board agreed that the Chief Executive and his team should prepare an Expression of Interest to be submitted to the Ministry for co-commissioning to be trialled in Western Sydney.

Prof Jeremy Chapman, Board Deputy Chair, presented on potential service models for the Rouse Hill Hospital and Health Precinct. The Board discussed the need for consideration of innovative models, as developed in other Australian states and internationally, to ensure that the community's needs were met by an appropriate and clinically safe approach. There was agreement that applying a 'traditional' hospital model could compromise WSLHD's ability to safely meet the community's future needs. The Board agreed to move forward with the development of an innovative model. In refining the model, the way that obstetric services are provided requires specific consideration. The Board agreed to set up a governance structure to oversee the development of the service model, and to support the development of a strategic communications plan.

Prof. Don Nutbeam, Board Member, presented on WSLHD research. The Board discussed research within the context of the District. They agreed that research is an important part of the work of the District and acknowledged the research activities already being undertaken. The Board also recognised the opportunity to develop more research directly aligned with District-wide priorities for clinical care. The Board agreed to develop a District-wide WSLHD research strategy.

The day concluded with the Chief Executive expressing his appreciation for the leadership provided by the Board and for the active participation of Board members during the Strategy Day.