

PRESENT AND APOLOGIES:**NNSW LHD BOARD**

Present: Dr Brian Pezzutti (Chair), Peter Carter, Carolyn Byrne, Mark Humphries, Dr John Moran, Susan Nancarrow, Deb Monaghan,

NNSW LHD BOARD

Apologies: Pat Grier, Michael Carter, Dr Allan Tyson, Naree Hancock, Dr John Griffin, Dr Alasdair Arthur

Apologies: Dee Robinson (NNSWLHD General Manager Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs)

In Attendance: Wayne Jones, David Hutton, Katharine Duffy, Richard Buss, Lynne Weir, Matthew Long, Brett Skinner, Tim Williams, Vicki Rose, Ged May, Jennifer Cleaver, Kate Greenwood, Fiona Baker, Geoffrey Norman

Welcome and Introductions, Mr Wayne Jones Chief Executive, NNSW LHD

Mr Jones welcomed invited guests, Board members, Executives, staff and community members. Mr Jones advised that due to the meeting being conducted via Zoom, all attendees names are unable to be reflected in the Minutes and noting there were 54 participants online. Mr Jones advised the 2019 AGM minutes are available on the LHD website. The NNSW LHD Financial Statements will be available on the LHD website when signed off by the Ministry of Health.

Acknowledgement to Country was provided by Wayne Jones.

Year in Review, Mr Wayne Jones Chief Executive, NNSW LHD

Mr Jones gave a summary of the Year in Review outlining some of the key focus areas across the LHD including:

- Bushfires devastation across the region
- Several NNSW LHD staff received Bushfire Emergency Citations from NSW Premier for exceptional commitment to patients and community during the bushfires
- COVID-19 pandemic
 - 61 confirmed cases throughout NNSW LHD with zero deaths
 - Over 83 000 tests conducted
 - Brief video shown of Mr Warren Ainsworth, Northern Rivers COVID survivor
 - Opportunities that have arisen from COVID on how we can re-think and modernise health system
- Emergency Department presentations are lower this financial year due to pandemic
- Overall patient experience continues to improve
- Overall patient engagement is one of the best results in NSW

Mr Jones provided an overview of the elective surgery performance across the LHD following the 25 March 2020 direction from the Federal Government to cease and recommence incrementally from 27 April 2020.

A brief overview was given off the NNSW LHD recurring budget, expenditure and activity.

Our Vision, Dr Brian Pezzutti, NNSW LHD Board Chair

Dr Pezzutti thanked the Executive Leadership Team and the NNSW LHD Board members for their commitment to the LHD during such a difficult period in 2020.

An overview was provided on Our Vision covering key challenges and milestones including:

- the four key demographic drivers affecting the health status of our residents and increase demand for our services:
 - Significant population growth
 - Large and growing aged population
 - Socio-economically disadvantaged areas
 - High proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents.
- Update on infrastructure milestones including:
 - Evans Head HealthOne opened on 11 February 2020
 - Grafton Base Hospital Ambulatory Care Centre opened 13 August 2020
 - Lismore Base Hospital completion of next stage
 - New helipad at Maclean District Hospital
 - Tweed Valley Hospital Development underway

Panel Q & A, Dr Brian Pezzutti and Mr Jones

- Mr Jones responded to a query regarding the Parkinson's Specialist Nurse, advising that in partnership with Parkinson's NSW, the first Clinical Nurse Consultant position commenced at the end of October 2020. The new service for the LHD will cover Tweed, Ballina and Byron. Consultation has commenced with Parkinson's NSW regarding co-funding additional positions that cover other areas across the LHD. The process has commenced in establishing the service in terms of referral processes, priorities, forms and brochures.
- Responding to a query regarding the future GP-VMO model at Bryon Central Hospital, Mr Jones advised this system is working well at this time. Possible changes may occur with the Nurse Practitioner assisted model in the relevant Inpatient Unit. This would not replace the GP VMO model, but more so provide support to the GP VMO's.
- Mr Jones advised there is no anticipated decision to close any section of the Maclean District Hospital. All facilities are reviewed to ensure efficiency and working in partnership with the rest of the LHD network.
- Responding to a query regarding the anticipated population growth in Lower Clarence and a possible increase in medical services, Mr Jones indicated that there has been increase in resourcing to the Clarence based health services including Grafton Base Hospital. Mr Jones also noted that as a result of development we are experiencing increases in populations across some centres including the Clarence Valley.
- Mr Jones advised the Tweed Valley Hospital has been designed with future proofing in mind until approximately 2031. A significant increase in staffing will be required as that timeline ensues, but initial opening stages should not have a large impact on current staffing levels

MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2020, VIA ZOOM COMMENCING AT 1.30 PM

in the Tweed area.

The Board Chair thanked Ms Elizabeth Koff, Secretary NSW Health, Ms Susan Pearce, NSW Secretary, Patient Experience and System Performance and Mr Daniel Hunter, Chief Financial Officer Deputy Secretary Finance and Asset Management for their continued support to the NNSW LHD as a regional LHD especially during the past year with all the challenges that COVID has presented.

Mr Jones acknowledged whilst this is the Board Chair's last AGM, his commitment and advocacy for the LHD and the people of the North Coast over many years has been outstanding.

Due to the restrictions regarding COVID-19 there were no Presentations of Long Service Awards to NNSWLHD Staff.

Close by Dr Brian Pezzutti, NNSW LHD Board Chair

Dr Pezzutti thanked the Board, Executive, community members and stakeholders attending the NNSW LHD Annual General Meeting.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 2.13pm.

Signed
The Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti
Chair, Northern NSW Local Health District

Date 27/1/21