

Western Sydney strengthens health partnership to chart the course for a vibrant future

A determination to work collaboratively for the people of Western Sydney was strengthened last month as Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD) and WentWest (the Western Sydney Primary Health Network – WSPHN) held their annual Joint Board Meeting.

This is the third year the two Boards have come together to reflect on the opportunities and challenges of healthcare in Western Sydney, building on the legacy of more than a decade of collaboration and innovation to advance health system reform.

Richard Alcock AO, WSLHD Board Chair said the enduring partnership was strengthened by the unique challenges facing healthcare provision in Western Sydney through the 2021 Delta outbreak.

“Last year provided a glimpse of the agility of each organisation, and helped us prepare for the additional challenges we would face this year. I am proud to see how we pivoted to meet those challenges while remaining on course to provide person-centred, value-based care at every point of contact with the health system in Western Sydney,” Mr Alcock said.

The meeting moved from past to present and future – reflecting on the history of the strong alliance between WentWest and WSLHD; examining the current challenges, opportunities and priorities of living with COVID; and looking ahead to future collaborative work in areas including mental health, health literacy, digital health, and long COVID.

Diana O’Halloran AO, Board Chair of WentWest said both organisations remained as committed as ever to delivering ‘one Western Sydney health system’ as they discussed how the partnership will evolve over the coming 2-3 years.

“It is incredibly rewarding to see how primary health care and acute services can work together to tackle the issues of our time, and put sustainable plans in place for us to together provide improved health outcomes and consumer experience.”

The Joint Board Meeting also presented an opportunity to again recognise the incredible resilience and adaptability of the strong workforces within each organisation.

Graeme Loy, Chief Executive of WSLHD said: “Every day I am impressed with the tireless efforts of our staff to not only care for their patients, but also support each other and even anticipate the needs of their colleagues in primary care.”

Ray Messom, Chief Executive Officer of WentWest added: “The programs we have in place and the plans we have for the future are all possible thanks to the passion, commitment and insight of those working every day to provide the best care to our community.”

For more information about the partnership, visit <https://wentwest.com.au/> and <https://www.wslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/>

