



Media Release

4th July 2017

NAIDOC Week draws spotlight to Board appointment

With this week a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements, WentWest - the Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WSPHN), is delighted to announce the appointment of Russell Taylor AM to its Board of Directors.

As a senior, respected Indigenous leader, Mr Taylor has extensive experience in corporate governance and change management and a long history of leadership and advocacy, with particular passions for social welfare and education. He is a member of several boards across Australia including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation, the Nature Conservation Trust and the Council of the University of Technology, Sydney.

In 2015, Mr Taylor was made a member of the Order of Australia for “significant services to the community as a cultural leader and public sector executive in the field of Indigenous Affairs”.

The appointment comes as WS PHN continues to work with the community and its partners to close the gap on health outcomes for Australia’s first peoples, including the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan to support the organisation’s ongoing role in the healing process of reconciliation.

WentWest Chair, Dr Di O’Halloran said of the appointment “It is an honour to have Russell join the WentWest Board of Directors. Western Sydney is home to the highest population of Aboriginal people living in an urban area in Australia. As an organisation focused on enhancing and enriching the health and wellbeing of western Sydney’s Aboriginal people, Russell will provide the experience and stewardship we seek.”

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About WentWest

WentWest's focus on providing better health care in the community was strengthened with its appointment as a Tranche 1 Medicare Local in July 2011 to now operating as the Western Sydney Primary Health Network. WentWest has built on its experience as a Division of General Practice in supporting GPs and their practices, connecting health services to meet local needs, and striving for better health outcomes for western Sydney.

The population living in western Sydney is culturally, linguistically and socio-economically diverse, and we also have the largest urban Aboriginal community in Australia. WentWest works closely with doctors, allied health professionals, the Local Health District and many others to improve the coordination of local health and human services for these patients and their families.