

WentWest Limited

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MEDIA RELEASE

Ray Messom Stepping Down as CEO

After twelve years in Australia, the last five of which have been at the helm of WentWest (the Western Sydney Primary Health Network), our CEO, Ray Messom and his family will return to Canada to be closer to extended family.

Ray has led WentWest with vision, distinction, generosity and grace.

Under Ray's leadership WentWest's digital, policy, commissioning and social enterprise capabilities have been greatly strengthened; our Patient Centred Medical Home (PCMH) practice transformation program expanded; aged care support services and Community Panels established; environmental impact reduced; and part of our original role as a Regional Training Organisation (RTO) in Western Sydney re-established, through the Workforce Planning and Prioritisation (WPP) Program.

WentWest now commissions more programs focussed on the social determinants of health than ever before. Ray has pioneered numerous new integrated care models, focussing on the utilisation of multidisciplinary and cross agency teams, lived experience and value-based, outcome focussed, person-centred care.

As a highly regarded health sector leader, Ray's collaborative approach has guided WentWest's partnership activities to advance several key reforms including Collaborative Commissioning, the Kids Early Years (KEYS) Network; the NSW Joint Statement and the national PHN Data Centre of Excellence. He also spearheaded the establishment a new Neighbourhood Health Hub, Healthcare, aimed at improving health and wellbeing in disadvantaged communities at a population level while supporting the viability of local general practices and the integration of services and sectors across the region.

Ray has fostered a vibrant, creative, and supportive culture at WentWest. In 2022, Ray was a finalist in the third sector CEO of the Year Awards, which he attributes to the passionate, wonderfully bright, ambitious and caring group of WentWesters, who go above and beyond each and every day.

WentWest's Board and staff members are committed to continuing his leadership legacy with the contributions of our PHN colleagues, Western Sydney partners, Clinical and Consumer Council members and General Practice Leaders remaining central to these endeavours.

The WentWest Board sincerely thanks Ray for his leadership and commitment to WentWest, to Western Sydney, and to Australian health system reform. Along with our diverse and deeply committed staff, the Board wish Ray and his family the very best for the future and thank him for the last five years during which so much was achieved.

Ray's last day as WentWest CEO will be 16 February 2024, but we will not be saying goodbye as he will then join the Healthcare Board as a Non-Executive Director.

An international search for our next CEO has commenced.

*Diana O'Halloran, AO
Board Chair, WentWest*