

Farewell from outgoing WentWest CEO, Walter Kmet

After seven successful years at the helm of WentWest, CEO Walter Kmet is departing to take on the role of CEO at Macquarie University Hospital, where he will also sit on the University Executive for the School of Medicine. During this, his final week, he reflects on his time in the role.

A figure that stands out in my mind is the 4,291 practice visits by our staff last year, a record. Ending on that note is really where I started with this role; a desire to engage general practice and primary care ground up so that the system can be transformed.

It's truly hard to believe that my journey with WentWest was seven years old on the 12th February, and I leave this role honoured to have contributed to the road to reform and with sincere confidence that the potential remains strong for the continuance of real and lasting change.

The role of (regional) organisations like WentWest in the system has never been more solid and respected, and international evidence continues to support this. Transparency of quality is on the march and we are seeing more examples of integrated care and team-based care in practice. And over the coming years both consumers and technology will be the basis for significant disruption, much more than we have seen, which offers even greater opportunities for reform.

How these areas can be a force for "good" reform and not perhaps more inequity will be an ever-present consideration, but the opportunity continues for WentWest to lead this. This no doubt involves advocacy, integration and commission elements, the foundation of what we put forward in our PHN application in 2015 and which we continue to champion through to present day.

Some of the great professional and personal highlights of my time at WentWest include:

☑The investment in GP and general practice leadership, and its more recent broadening to pharmacists. I'm have been just so proud of this, some recognised formally at the highest levels of the profession in awards, advisory appointments and research. ☑The wonderful support from the Board to dive into HealthPathways so early in its development, making us the first in Australia to do so from the primary care end. ☑The commitment to work such as PCMH, Quadruple Aim and Integrated Care. Building on a legacy of WentWest leadership in these areas it's satisfying to see these terms now commonplace in the Australian context and at the highest levels of reform thinking in this country. ☑Bringing the use of data and team-based care to life; in the former the nationally relevant

data linkage project; and in the latter, most recently through pharmacists in general practice which itself has also been a kernel for reform and investment nationally. Finally, I would like to mention the passionate and dedicated staff of WentWest, who have truly been through a roller coaster of reform and change over the past few years, plus so many more people who are truly reflective of the community we ultimately serve. Watching these people grow both personally and professionally has been a highlight of my time as CEO and will always be remembered. I would also like to thank the Board and in particular our Chairperson, Di O'Halloran, who has been steadfast in her vision and support of me.

It has been an honour to serve as CEO and I will watch keenly from afar as WentWest continues to lead by example as it carries out its mission to work in partnership to empower and strengthen western Sydney communities in the area of health care reform.

Thank you,

Walter Kmet, CEO WentWest



Danny O'Connor, fmr CEO WSLHD; Michael Brydon, CEO Sydney Children's Hospital's Network and Walter Kmet, CEO WentWest

Events

Webinar – My Health Record for Aged Care

Tuesday 12th March 2019

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Webinar – My Health Record: A Mental Health Case Study

Thursday 14th March 2019

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Small Group Learning – My Health Record: Medical Director Training

Thursday 14th March 2019

6:30pm - 9:00pm

Small Group Learning – My Health Record: Best Practice Training

Thursday 21st March 2019

6:00pm - 9:00pm

Other News

Have you tried the new mobile-friendly HealthPathways?

Our new mobile-friendly version of HealthPathways launched on Tuesday 5th March. With a new look and feel, and identical clinical content, this new site makes HealthPathways easier to use on your phone, tablet or desktop. Whether you're in your practice, out in the community or in a hospital environment the site is now more easily accessible, no matter where you are.

To access HealthPathways use the below login details:

Username: health Password: w3stern

Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Meeting

Last week on Wednesday 27th February, WentWest held it's quarterly Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Advisory meeting. The meeting was represented by the Western Sydney Local Health District, Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network and providers that deliver AOD services in western Sydney. Kieran Palmer from the Ted Noffs Foundation Australia and Mary Harrod from NSW Users and Aids Association delivered two presentations on Harm Minimisation during the meeting. The next meeting is on Wednesday 22nd May.

If you would like further information about the meeting, please contact Sarah Carter at

✉Sarah.carter@wentwest.com.au

Heart Foundation Launches a Heart Age Calculator

In an effort to get more people aware of their personal risk of heart disease, the Heart Foundation has launched a new Heart Age Calculator. The calculator is a motivational tool to get people to have a heart health check with their doctor.

Heart Foundation recommends doctors and health professionals continue to use the Absolute CVD Risk Assessment tool as a clinical tool to complete a heart health check.

For more information please visit the Heart Foundation's website.

GP Association meetings

The following GP Association meetings are coming up in western Sydney:

Blacktown: Principles of Opioid Prescribing – When to Trial, When to Cease? Wednesday 20th March.

Mount Druitt: Walking into Good Health, Community Initiative to Promote Smoking Cessation, Friday 22nd March.

Hills: Walking into Good Health, Community Initiative to Promote Smoking Cessation, Wednesday 10th April.

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