

**Abridged WAHTN Executive Board Minutes for WAHTN Website
No. 03/2019 held on 14 May 2019**

Attendees:

Mr Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC, Chair

Ms Pip Brennan, Consumer Advocate

Dr James Williamson, representing the WA Department of Health

Professor Shirley Bowen, representing the Private Health Sector members

Professor Steve Arnott, representing the Medical Research Institute members

Professor Eeva Leinonen, representing the member universities

Professor Neale Fong, representing the WA Health Service Boards

Professor Gary Geelhoed, Executive Director WAHTN, ex officio

Executive Officer: Dr Tanya Tuffrey, WAHTN

By Invitation:

Dr Debbie Turner, Chief Operating Officer WAHTN

Apologies

Professor Peter Thompson, Professor Peter Leedman, Associate Professor Dan McAullay

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed members and Prof. Steve Arnott who was proxy for Prof. Leedman to the third meeting of 2019.

2. Declarations of potential or perceived conflicts of interest

None

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Board 12 March 2019

3.1 It was resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the WAHTN Executive Board held on 12 March 2019 were approved.

3.2 Action Items

The Executive Director provided an update on the Action Items from 12 March 2019.

Update regarding the Guardianship Act 1990 – The Guardianship Act is still under review. In the meantime, James Williamson is drawing up a template which will be used to screen current Health Service Projects that have been held up by the review process. Opinion will be sought from the State Solicitor as to whether or not these projects can proceed.

Eeva Leinonen confirmed that none of the other universities wanted to be the Centre Agent for WAHTN.

Members requested in future that Action Items contain the date by which they should be completed.

4. Management Committee

The Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 9 April 2019 were noted.

Note – regarding difficulties with ensuring WA representation over East, Steve Arnott mentioned that to overcome this, the Perron Institute has forged alliances with organisations in Melbourne (including having Board members from Perron) as they are better linked to upcoming grants announcements.

Pip Brennan raised a concern about the lack of specific WAHTN support for researchers in Indigenous Medicine and the need to consider this when creating the WAHTN strategic plan. The Executive Director highlighted that WAHTN, in the latest MRFF funding application, has made provision for a 12-18mth Aboriginal Health Fellowship, along with two others in the areas of Wounds and Multi Resistant Organisms A call for these Fellowships will be opened late 2019 for commencement from Jan 2020.

5. Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA)

- The 2019 Federal Budget announcement included \$218M over 10 years allocated to Rapid Applied Health Research Translation i.e. to the AHRA Centres, which includes WAHTN. The exact funds awarded to each centre are yet to be announced.
- Consumer and Community Initiative (CCI) Project – this is being co-led by WAHTN and Sydney Health Partners. The current proposal includes 4 different streams, which have been signed off by the AHRA council and by the steering committees of the project. It is hoped that this project may attract additional funding from the Commonwealth.
- Wounds Project– this is being co-led by WAHTN and the Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners. The project has been set up in a similar fashion to the CCI project and has also been approved by the AHRA council and relevant steering committee.
- Women’s Health Initiative – this is a national initiative and the WA representatives are Jacqueline Frayne and Roger Hart. \$5M has recently been awarded in this area and it is hoped that some of this funding will flow to WA.
- James Williamson queried whether WA could put in a bid for a regional AHRTC. None of the meeting attendees had seen a public call for the additional AHRTCs/CIRHs, but it was suggested that WA needs to be ready to put something together should there be another call. WACHS will make enquiries regarding a new rural focused bid.

6. Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)

- The process for the Health Service Research Translation Grants, which will be funded under Round 3 of the MRFF Rapid Applied Research Translation funding, has been completed. The Review Panel was made up of representatives from the Area Health Services, Pathwest, the Private Hospitals and WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA).

7. Governance and Operations

7.1 The Joint Venture Agreement, Centre Agent Services Agreement, WAHTN Executive Board Terms of Reference and WAHTN Management Committee Terms of Reference, as well as the 2019 invoices have been sent to partners for sign off and payment.

7.2 Partners and Associate Membership update:

- Perth Radiological Clinic/Perth Radiological Foundation – the Executive Director has written requesting their submission for membership comes from Perth Radiological Foundation (the research arm of the organisation). However they have responded by saying that for tax reasons this is not possible through the Foundation but has to come through the service.

- The criteria for new membership need to be documented so that a consistent approach to assessing applications is taken. Debbie Turner will review the criteria used by other AHRA members and will bring a draft criteria to the Board – ACTION ITEM.

7.3 Strategic plan. Staff and management committee workshops have been held. Board workshop being planned for July.

Potential workshops dates will be circulated by email – ACTION ITEM

The draft of the survey and the list of names to whom the survey will be distributed will be sent to the Board prior to circulation – ACTION ITEM

Board papers for the workshop need to be circulated prior to the workshop – ACTION ITEM

For the Board to assist in the strategic plan, they need to know how WAHTN fits within the research space in WA and federally and what WAHTN's role is and the remit to translation. One suggestion was that WAHTN needs to understand the landscape, and so WAHTN needs to look at the strategic plans of the universities and partners and needs to be clear on what they are trying to achieve, this then feeds into the purpose, the needs, then the goals and then the priorities for WAHTN. Once the clear purpose and priorities have been established, then the strategy to achieve those can be formulated. The purpose needs to be clear.

8. Initiatives and Activities

Biostatistics – Gary Geelhoed has met with Jim Codde from Notre Dame and has also had meetings at the Royal Perth Hospital Foundation who are both trying to set up statewide biostatistics services. Gary informed them of the WAHTN Biostatistician Preceptorship program and they showed interest in being part of the overarching biostatistician network..

Health Economics – funding to develop a similar scheme to the Biostatistician preceptorships has been included in the Lotterywest application.

Imaging Facility – a Lotterywest application is being prepared requesting the shortfall from the current pledges. ACTION ITEM – circulate paper to Board. (James Williamson stressed the need for a state Imaging Strategy)

WAHTN is contributing to the costs of bringing Prof Merrick Zwarenstein to WA – this is being co-sponsored by David Preen, School of Population and Global Health, UWA and WAHTN. David is one of the WA representatives on the AHRA Data Driven Health Systems Initiative.

9. Financial Reports

9.1 Current CCHRN funding from Lotterywest ends 30 June 2019. An application for 12 months of further funding has been made to Lotterywest. The application will be considered at the upcoming Lotterywest Board meeting.

9.2 Partnership invoices for 2019 have been sent to partner organisations along with the JVA.

10. Platforms

- The RETProgram has been granted a 12 month extension of using the retp url as a means of re-directing users to the new RETProgram website.
- CCHRN are seeking a one year transitional support grant from Lotterywest while they enter into more sustainable contracts with partner organisations for the Consumer Advocate Program.

11. Executive Director's Quarterly Report

The Science of the Swan Conference (at the Westin from 5-7 June) will include an innovation and commercialisation workshop. WAHTN has worked with The West Australian newspaper to produce an insert and a microsite highlighting SOTS2019 and medical research in WA from the partner organisations who have contributed to the costs of the conference over the past 5 years.

12. Other Business

Neale Fong queried whether WAHTN was aware of the Digital Health CRC (WA Health, WACHS, WAPHA, SJOG, Notre Dame and Curtin participate) – Digital Health capability translating into outcomes. WAHTN should be involved in this area. Presently Suzanne Robinson is coordinating the WA work.

Eeva Leinonen mentioned the Food Futures CRC which will bring \$35M into WA. This has come about on the back of the Phenome Centre work with Jeremy Nicholson.

It was suggested that items such as these should be included as an item on the agenda which allows members to present what is new/relevant in their sector.- ACTION ITEM.