

**Abridged WAHTN Executive Board Minutes for WAHTN Website  
No. 04/2019 held on 9 July 2019**

**Attendees:**

Mr Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC, Chair

Ms Pip Brennan, Consumer Advocate

Dr Michael Levitt, representing the WA Department of Health

Professor Shirley Bowen, representing the Private Health Sector members

Professor Peter Leedman, representing the Medical Research Institute members

Professor Eeva Leinonen, representing the member universities

Professor Neale Fong, representing the WA Health Service Boards

Associate Professor Dan McAullay, representing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people - by phone

Professor Gary Geelhoed, Executive Director WAHTN, ex officio

Executive Officer: Dr Tanya Tuffrey, WAHTN

By Invitation:

Dr Debbie Turner, Chief Operating Officer WAHTN

**Apologies**

Dr James Williamson

**1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed members to the fourth meeting of 2019.

**2. Declarations of potential or perceived conflicts of interest (COI)**

Michael Levitt – declared a number of positions he holds none of which were thought to be a COI.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Board 14 May 2019**

3.1 It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the WAHTN Executive Board held on 14 May 2019 were confirmed.

**4. Management Committee**

The Minutes and Action Items of the Management Committee meeting held on 18 June 2019 were noted.

**5. Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA)**

- Consumer and Community Initiative Project
- Wounds Project

Gary Geelhoed provided a verbal update on these projects. Both projects have been developed into a body of work containing several sub-projects, each of which will be led by an AHRA centre/s. Gary and Jo Wilkie (WAHTN Manager for National Programs) will be having meetings with the co-leads of each project to develop a more detailed work plan for 2019/20 and to establish project governance.

**6. Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)**

Round 3 MRFF funds have been awarded to WAHTN however the announcement is still under embargo.

## 7. Governance and Operations

7.1 Joint Venture Agreement, Centre Agent Services Agreement, WAHTN Executive Board Terms of Reference and WAHTN Management Committee Terms of Reference have been sent to partners. Seven partners have signed to date, with some small changes requested from a number of partners.

7.2 Strategic plan. Staff and management committee workshops have been held. The draft survey and distribution list were circulated to the Board and feedback provided to Jo Wilkie.

## 8. Initiatives and Activities

- AICC(WA) delegation to Israel - the Executive Director travelled to Israel with a delegation from WA, including Minister Cook, Director General Dr David Russell-Weisz, Peter Klinken the Chief Scientist, Dr Robyn Lawrence (CE NMHS) as well as key people from the private hospitals and industry in late May/early June. The approach that Israel has taken is very different to that in Australia – the government provides funding for a large number of projects in the early discovery phase, in the knowledge that many of the projects will be unsuccessful. The approach taken there highlighted where WA is lacking including on the legislative front. (In the UK, Dame Sally Davies has been the champion for cultural change – and a similar approach is needed in WA). The Chair requested that a report be written about the Israel trip which included recommendations for what can be done in WA - ACTION ITEM.
- The Science on the Swan conference was very successful, with over 280 delegates (up from 130 in 2018). This may be due to a number of factors including the location, venue, new conference management company, and the choice of keynote speaker. Planning now needs to start for the 2020 event. To try and encourage research in hospitals, the Area Health Services are being approached to be the leads in the organising committee, but this will still be a WAHTN event.
- Health Economics platform did not receive any funding through the Lotterywest grant application.
- The Biostatistician Preceptorships also did not receive any funding through the Lotterywest application, this program is being redesigned and will be now based on a trial of 2 junior biostatisticians with 2 mentors.
- There is currently no dedicated human imaging research facility in WA. A committee of key stakeholders has been working with WAHTN partners to raise the \$27M needed. There is currently a shortfall of \$3M. WAHTN has been instrumental in getting all the interested parties together.

## 9. Financial Reports

9.1. The WAHTN Financial Report was circulated – expenditure is within budget.

## 10. Platforms

- CCHRN – the Consumer and Community Health Research Network in various guises has been in existence for many years. In the past three years, it has been funded primarily from Lotterywest funds with a small contribution from partners who have Consumer Advocates visiting each week. In order for this to be sustainable after the 2019/2020

Lotterywest grant ends, these partners will need to cover the full costs of the Consumer Advocates. Gary Geelhoed and Deb Langridge have had meetings with the partners who currently have Consumer Advocates, with a proposal to increase their contribution from 50% of the Consumer Advocate salary (the subsidised rate set for the past three years) to 75% for the next 12 months, and to 100% after the end of this Lotterywest grant. These arrangements will be made separately to the UJV agreement as not all WAHTN partners use this service. The WA Department of Health has asked for a Consumer Advocate to commence there for the next 12 months.

#### **11. Executive Director's Quarterly Report**

The Guardianship Act – the State Solicitor is currently preparing amendments to the Act. James Williamson is reviewing current projects on hold to resubmit to the State Solicitor for possible approval.