

**WA Health Translation Network
Management Committee Meeting No. 5/2018
Minutes
Tuesday 13 August 2019 7.30am to 9am**

Location: CERI Workshop room, Level One, 22 Stirling Highway, Nedlands, WA 6009

Attendees

Representative Members:

Chair: Professor Gary Geelhoed, Executive Director WAHTN
Child and Adolescent Health Service: Professor Peter Richmond
Curtin University: Professor Torbjorn Falkmer
East Metropolitan Health Service: Professor Daniel Fatovich
Harry Perkins Institute: Ms Emma Stone
Lions Eye Institute: Prof Bill Morgan
Murdoch University: Professor Lucy Johnston
The University of Western Australia: Professor Osvaldo Almeida
WA Country Health Service: Ms Anita John

Associates:

Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation: Dr Carolyn Williams

Platforms:

Clinical Trials and Data Management Centre: Professor Peter Thompson
Commercialisation Representative: Associate Professor Kevin Pflieger
Consumer and Community Health Research Network: Ms Debra Langridge
Mental Health Representative: Professor Vera Morgan
Transdisciplinary Programs Representative: Professor George Yeoh
Women's Health Representative: Winthrop Professor Jeffrey Keelan

Staff:

WAHTN Chief Operating Officer: Dr Debbie Turner
WAHTN Executive Officer: Dr Tanya Tuffrey
WAHTN Program Coordinator: Ms Katherine Coltrona

Apologies

Sandra Bellekom, Aron Chakera, Jim Codde, Chris Kane, Angelita Martini, David Morrison, Rob Newton, Steve Webb, Steve Wilton, Michael Winlo, Janet Zagari

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Declarations of potential or perceived conflicts of interest

None

3. Lotterywest and Healthway Community Investment Framework

Presentation by Susan Hunt and Lorna Pritchard. Lotterywest and Healthway are currently co-located but still have separate boards. Many of the operational process has been integrated which has resulted in cost saving. Applicants are advised to apply to both funds, if they are eligible for both, as those processes have not been combined. Projects in health promotion and funding for health advocacy should be sent to Healthway. ACTION ITEM – Presentation to be circulated.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2019

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Management Committee of 18 June 2019 were confirmed. The minutes are attached (Attachment 1). Gary Geelhoed thanked Peter Thompson and Debbie Turner for running the last meeting and overseeing operations while he was away.

5. Business Arising

No business arising.

6. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director provided a verbal update, which incorporated the following items:

- Guardianship and Administration Act 1990 – drafting of the new legislation has begun in the parliamentary office, and has been given a priority rating which means that it should be submitted in the spring session, to be passed by the end of spring i.e. before the end of the year. It will not have impact on the current studies unless the legislation is made retrospective.
- Science on the Swan 2020. This will be the sixth Science on the Swan conference. The focus for 2020 will be on research in the hospitals – the Chief Executives of the Area Health Services have agreed to have the focus of the conference be on hospital research and clinician researchers. The Executive Director has also had discussions with the Directors of Research at the five Area Health Services. The theme has not yet been confirmed. It is anticipated that it will be held in May 2020 so as not to clash with other major conferences in June 2020.
- Medical Imaging Working Group – confirmation of funding from contributing organisations is being sought. To date there remains a relatively small shortfall in the required funding. DoH has confirmed the value of their contribution. The outcome of the application to Lotterywest is not yet known. If successful, then the application for the Commonwealth funding can go ahead. Philanthropic options are being explored to fund the shortfall.
- The Executive Board will be participating in a Strategic Planning workshop on 4 September.

7. Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA)

There are nine AHRA centres across Australia accredited by the NHMRC, with five more applications currently being assessed. It is uncertain whether additional funding would be available or whether the funds available to the existing centres would have to be divided further to accommodate newly accredited centres.

On 5 August 2019, the selection panel reviewing the new applications met with the existing groups to discuss issues such as evaluation, measuring success and how NHMRC accreditation had benefited the current AHRA centres. The NHMRC has contracted the services of a management consulting firm, NOUS, who will be assessing the structure and outcomes of the Translation Centre Initiative. They will be interviewing a number of people involved with WAHTN in Perth on 26 August 2019.

The Chair provided a verbal update on the current AHRA discussions, including:

- 7.1 Consumer and Community Involvement (CCI) Project - a workshop is being held in Sydney on 19 August 2019 to further develop the project plans for Phase 2 of the national CCI work.
- 7.2 Wound care initiative - Gary Geelhoed and Jo Wilkie recently attended a roundtable forum in Canberra with the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce for Wound Management. The review is headed by Bruce Robinson, Chair of the Australian Government's Taskforce of expert clinicians charged with reviewing the MBS and Chair of the Council of NHMRC. The roundtable discussed ways to improve the management of chronic wounds, including the development of an integrated and robust approach to chronic wound management in Australia. Simon Torvaldsen from WA is chair of the MBS working group reviewing wound care and has agreed to work closely with WAHTN to ensure integration of the MBS work and the AHRA Wound care project.
- 7.3 Data Driven Healthcare Improvement - this is an active group, with a sub-committee being formed in WA led by Merran Smith and David Preen.

8. Enabling Platforms

Updates were provided on the WAHTN enabling platforms:

Research and Education Training Program (RETProgram) – the numbers of participants continue to grow, and there has been an increase in participation from other states.

Clinical Trials – demand for the Clinical Research Support Service (CRSS) is continuing to grow. Staff visit subscribing centres in WAHTN and work with younger researchers, assisting them with how to set up projects and providing advice on various aspects of project design, ethics and governance, as well as data set up. REDCap is used as the standard data format. Sessions providing advice on using REDCap are always over-subscribed. The CRSS will be expanded to include the soon to be created Biostatistician Fellowships. The Fellowships will be run through an expressions of interest process, with applications sought from host departments willing to support a Fellow and provide them with a senior mentor.

Health Economics – a similar program to the biostatistician preceptorship is needed in this area, but WAHTN has not yet been able to source funding. A meeting with Curtin University to discuss opportunities is planned.

Consumer and Community Health Research Network (CCHRN) – the network has been awarded one year of funding from Lotterywest. This is interim funding which will cover the costs of CCHRN while changes are implemented to make the network sustainable. Meetings are being held with partners and are looking at a transition from the partners providing 50% of the costs of the consumer advocates to covering 100% of the network costs (including that of the support team). Meetings to date have been positive. The CCHRN team will be relocating offices to the Harry Perkins Institute with WAHTN and RETProgram staff. CCHRN is also exploring the possibilities of developing new online training modules with RETProgram. The network is also participating in the AHRA CCI project and is looking at a best

practice project – in particular at the design and how to include WA partners. CCHRN is working with the public reform sector on two workshops for researchers and consumers on Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing.

Biobanking – this platform received funding in the original round of grant funds from MRFF – the funds were used to detail the current status in WA, as well as the best practice elsewhere. Following a workshop, six sub-groups were formed to discuss particular areas of relevance and reports have been received back from four of the sub-groups to date. Some funding was also awarded to TKI which is working with the ORIGINS biobank to prototype a biobanking informatics platform. From the national perspective, Jeff Keelan is on a committee established to discuss a national biobanking initiative, to date four teleconferences have been held with stakeholders. The discussions have focused on: whether a national biobank should focus only on human samples; on medical research biobanks; on the involvement of pharmaceutical companies – specifically for pathology samples and not drug development. This initiative was set up with National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) funding to look at a national biobanking framework. There will be a workshop on 21 October 2019 in Sydney to work on a funding application for a \$3M pilot project. Representatives from WA will attend.

AICC(WA) delegation to Israel – the AICC report on this trip to be circulated to the committee – ACTION ITEM.

9. Other Business

The Executive Director reminded attendees that the WAHTN Strategic Survey was still open and asked for feedback to inform the strategic review process.

Discussion arose around the need for communication. The Executive Director said that having a part-time Communications Officer for the past 6 months has made a difference to publicising WAHTN and its role. Jeff Keelan commented that it is very important for WA to have a unifying voice in Canberra, and that WAHTN is well placed to be the broker for all health research organisations in WA. The eastern states have lobbyists in Canberra, but WA does not, and needs someone in that role. Further to this, Kevin Pflieger said that the University of Melbourne has a team of people tracking MRFF funding opportunities, and that they are well informed and know ahead of time what opportunities will be available. WAHTN requires more resources to do something similar, as it does not currently have funds to cover such a role.

Next Meeting:

Next Scheduled Management Committee meeting is as follows:

22 October 2019 7.30am-9.00am.