

Board Communique – February 2017

On behalf of Capital Health Network's (CHN) Board, we are delighted to provide you with our first Board Communique for 2017.

Pill Testing

At the recent Board meeting, (9 February) Dr David Caldicott presented a very informative session on pill testing in the ACT. Dr Caldicott is Adjunct Professor at the University of Canberra and Emergency Medicine Consultant at the ANU. Dr Caldicott expects that a trial of pill testing will go ahead this year at an ACT music festival. The Board passed a resolution to support the trial of pill testing in the ACT as an important public health initiative.

Commissioning update

The last 12 months have been busy for the organisation as we progress commissioning of a number of services across the following areas – indigenous health – care coordination and general practice support, mental health, after hours, alcohol and drugs, aged care, sexual health, research and evaluations. Our website provides greater detail on the procurement activities currently underway and those already completed.

The Board approved the PHN Annual Work Plans and Budgets for 2017-18. The initiatives to address priority areas identified in 2016 have been developed and these will continue to roll out over the next 18 months.

Board Committee update

The Board Advisory Committees have commenced meeting again in 2017.

1. ACT Clinical Council

The ACT Clinical Council met on 13 February. Dr Jeff Fletcher, acting Chief Medical Officer ACT Health and Ms Athalene Rosborough, Manager Aged Care Assessment Team ACT Health, provided the Council with updates on the progress of the ACT Health Clinical Services Framework and discussed issues with the My Aged Care portal.

Dr Tony Hobbs, Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Ms Debra Thoms, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, both of the Commonwealth Department of Health, also attended the meeting. Dr Hobbs and Ms Thoms are undertaking a series of visits to the PHN Clinical Councils across Australia to gain a greater understanding of the clinical issues the PHNs are addressing.

2. Audit and Risk Committee

The Board has appointed a new independent member to the Board's Audit and Risk Committee following the retirement of Dr Lesley Piko from the Audit and Risk Committee at the AGM in November 2016. The Board welcomes Mr James Palmer to the Committee. Mr Palmer has considerable experience in both external and internal audit with big 4 professional services firms and will provide CHN with additional expertise on commissioning and financial matters.

3. Community Advisory Committee

The Board has also appointed a new member to the Community Advisory Council. Ms Stephanie Gorman of the Youth Coalition of the ACT will join the Council at its next meeting in May. The Board looks forward to Ms Gorman providing a perspective of the issues facing young people accessing the health system.

Prof Gabrielle Cooper OAM
Chair

Ms Gaylene Coulton
Chief Executive