



Board Communique

19 December 2025

The Board met on 19 December 2025 at Perth Children's Hospital.

Members attending:

Dr Neale Fong, Board Chair
Mr John McLean
Prof Karen Strickland
Prof Eli Gabbay
Ms Meghan Maor
Dr Peter Steer
Ms Kelly Worlock

In Attendance:

Ms Valerie Buic, CE
Mr Matthew Holmes, A/DoCE

Apologies:

Nil

Meeting with the Director-General, Dr Shirley Bowen

The Board met with the Director-General, Dr Shirley Bowen to discuss key strategic priorities shaping the future delivery of the CAHS services.

Key matters for discussion

The Board noted the Chief Executive's report and discussed progress across a range of strategic operational areas.

The Board noted that the new Community CAMHS model of care was developed through staff engagement and was informed by current data and benchmarking. The Board reaffirmed their support for implementing the model of care, recognising the potential for a significant impact on delivering meaningful improvements in outcomes for families of WA accessing CAMHS services.

The Board discussed progress in commissioning the WA Children's Hospice and ongoing engagement with key stakeholders, stressing the importance of collaboration in supporting successful implementation.

The Board discussed CAHS research strategy and recognised the important role CAHS plays in advancing research to improve care for children and adolescents both nationally and internationally; and reinforced the importance of strong research governance.



Board Committees

Safety and Quality: The Board noted quarterly report of the Children's Healthcare Australia (CHA), providing benchmarking data against comparable services.

The Board celebrated successful transition of Crisis Connect into statewide service in collaboration with WA Community Health Service and thanked teams for their impressive work.

The Board discussed the CAHS's Consumer Engagement Strategy and consumer feedback analysis, commending the consumer engagement team for their work; and congratulated management on the 2025 IPAA WA Achievement Award recognising CAHS for Complaints Management Improvement Project.

Finance: the Board discussed CAHS current and forecasted financial position; and noted the outcomes of the Mid-Year Review.

Audit, Risk and Compliance: The Board endorsed the closure of audit recommendations as advised and noted updates as provided. The Board discussed digital risks and mitigation strategies.

People, Capability and Culture: The Board supported Committees recommendation to conduct culture analysis to identify best approaches for further improvements. The Board noted the CAHS Workforce due diligence report.

Items for noting

- CAHS Performance Report
- Legal Report
- Board Activity Report
- Consumer Leadership Council Chair Update
- Reports to actions raised in previous meetings

Endorsements

The Board endorsed:

- New CAHS Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2026-28 for submission to the Department of Communities; and
- Patient debt write-offs.

Next meeting

The next Board meeting will be held at Perth Children's Hospital on 30th January 2026.

Dr Neale Fong
BOARD CHAIR
December 2025

