

BOARD COMMUNIQUE

September 2021

The Board of Northern Territory PHN (NT PHN) met on 6th September 2021 in Darwin. A range of matters was considered, noting the development and progress in the implementation of NT PHN programs and key performance indicators. Key issues discussed included the following:

Adult Community Mental Health Centre (AMHC)

There are ongoing developments in the Adult Mental Health Centre, with the location confirmed in Casuarina and the centre officially named **Darwin Head to Health**. The project is being delivered in partnership with NEAMI National and Larrakia Nation and has reached some significant milestones in recent months. A range of co-design activities have occurred with over 50 people with lived experience, stakeholders and service providers all providing their input into the centre to ensure services are appropriate, meet local needs and are not duplicating existing services.

COVID-19

NT PHN continues to work collaboratively with NT Health and the Australian Department of Health to communicate vaccine-related information.

The Primary Care team has been hosting twice-weekly information sessions with our GPs to address any concerns they have around the vaccination program.

Our new website features current COVID information and is being updated regularly to reflect new GPs commencing vaccinations and to support NT Government COVID messaging.

In terms of the COVID-19 Pandemic response plan, the following were the key highlights-

- Regular engagement with GP sector to support preparedness and management activities, including encouraging testing where able
- Immediate PPE distribution to GP, ACCHS, and Community Pharmacy sectors during lockdown
- Weekly practice manager meetings to enable two-way communication
- Representation at weekly CDC and other stakeholder meetings

Compass 2021

Considering the high risks arising from the current global pandemic, Compass 2021 is postponed this year to mid-2022. NT PHN is committed to the health and safety of the community including the NT's health workforce.

NT PHN Councils

The Board considered the valuable feedback from the Councils on the following consultation topics:

- the Primary Health Care Accessibility and Inclusion Project
- implications of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety for the PHNs.
- Clinical Councils Structure
- Supporting PHNs to Build Health Literacy/Quality Use of Medicines in their Communities

- Health Pathways Integration Action Plan

Annual Financial Report, Annual Report, and Annual General Meeting

In October 2021, the Board will consider the Annual Financial Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2021, prepared in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Corporations Act 2001. The Annual Financial Report, as well as the online Annual Report, will be made available on the Company's website and will be presented to the Company's Members at the Annual General Meeting on 29 November 2021.

Director Recruitment

Ms Diane Walsh and Ms Judith Oliver, who have served on the Board since 2012, will retire at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November 2021 as their maximum term of appointment as Director expires in accordance with NT PHN's Constitution. The Board, with the support of the Nominations Committee, is in the selection process to appoint two new Directors by the Company's Members at the AGM.

Further, upon the resignation of Dr Paul Burgess, the organisation is also recruiting for the vacancy and is encouraging applications. The recruitment for this role will also be finalised at the 2021 AGM along with the aforementioned recruitment process.

The next quarterly Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, 29th November 2021.

Diane Walsh

NT PHN Board Chair