

FOREWORD

The Allied Health Clinical Committee (AHCC) advises the Wentworth Healthcare Limited (WHL) Board on recommended strategies to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in our community within the Nepean Blue Mountains (NBM) region.

The AHCC provides strategic and practical advice to the WHL Board to support the work of the Primary Health Network (PHN) in addressing region-wide issues facing allied health professionals and their clients while also considering the unique needs and concerns of each local community within the NBM region.

KEY MATTERS CONSIDERED 2023

Many issues were addressed by the Allied Health Clinical Council this year, including:

- Workforce Issues
 - Strengthening Medicare Taskforce
 - Implications for providers, community, and GPs in our region
 - Enablers and Barriers to successful roll-out of SMT recommendations
- Strengthening Medicare Outcomes from the National Budget.
- National PHN Allied Health Engagement Strategy (Local Prioritisation).
- New Hawkesbury Mental Health Service *Head to Health*.
- Health system integration (private/public; primary/secondary/tertiary; MBS/NDIS/other funding systems)

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

Four meetings were held during the year.

Name	Role and LGA represented	Attendance
Rudi Crncec	Clinical Psychologist Penrith	2/4
Jacqualine Faehringer	Physiotherapy Manager, Hawkesbury District Health Service	1/2
Rebecca Hannon	Exercise Physiologist Hawkesbury	4/4
Jillian Harrington	Chair. Clinical Psychologist Penrith	3/4
Anne Lyell	Chiropractor, Hawkesbury	3/4
Chris Scanlon	Podiatrist, Penrith	1/4
Gobika Srikanthan	Pharmacist, Hawkesbury	3/4
Emily Standen	Physiotherapist, Penrith	3/4
Tina Thew	Deputy Director of Community and Allied Health Hawkesbury District Health Service	1/2
Sally Webb	Physiotherapist, Blue Mountains	4/4

We also acknowledge and appreciate the attendance of the GP Clinical Council (GPCC) Chair, Dr. Michael Crampton, Community Advisory Committee Chair, Belinda Leonard, and WHL Board member, Jeffery Jenkins.

CONTINUING AREAS OF FOCUS IN 2024

Areas for future focus

1. Workforce shortages
2. National PHN Allied Health Engagement Strategy
3. Strengthening Medicare Outcomes

CHAIR'S QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

Challenges, Highlights and Outcomes

Our AHCC has continued to be an energetic, passionate, and informative group, supporting the PHN's work across a range of areas. The Council serves as a useful 2-way conduit for Allied Health in our region – with members providing useful insights to the Wentworth Healthcare Board and informing local AHP networks and member organisations about developments in Primary Care. Our close work with GPCC and with the PHN team has been highlights – ensuring new initiatives involving Allied Health in our region will have maximum impact.