

Community Advisory Committee – Annual Report FY25

ABOUT CAC

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is a Joint Committee of the NBMLHD and Wentworth Healthcare. The purpose of the committee is to provide a community perspective to ensure that decisions, investments, and innovations are patient-centred, locally relevant and aligned to local care experiences and expectations.

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

Name	Eligible	Attended
Caroline Allen (Hawkesbury)	5	5
Peter Gooley (Hawkesbury)	5	5
Simon Griffin (Hawkesbury)	5	1
Priya Jensen (Blue Mountains)	5	5
Belinda Leonard (Chair) (Blue Mountains)	5	4
Joe Rzepecki (Penrith)	5	3
Colleen Winterburn (Lithgow)	5	5
Andrew Wilson (Blue Mountains)	5	2

CAC met five times during the year. In addition, CAC members were invited to meet with the WHL Board on 30 April 2025.

KEY MATTERS CONSIDERED FY 2025

Major items of discussion, and consultation included:

- CAC membership and recruitment
- Disaster and Emergency Management
- North Richmond Urgent Care Service
- Emergency Department avoidance and the role of Urgent Care Centres/Services and After-Hours GP services
- Health literacy group and recruitment
- Domestic Violence programs (PHN and LHD services)

LOOKING AHEAD TO FY25

CAC will continue to identify and discuss areas of importance to consumers in the region to identify program opportunities and areas for advocacy. We anticipate a focus on consumer engagement strategies, CAC membership and recruitment. We look forward to more opportunity to focus on the integration of care between primary healthcare and the local health district services and the Joint Board integrating care priorities as well as activities and priorities resulting from the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

COMMENT FROM THE CHAIR

Belinda Leonard

Our Community Advisory Committee thrives as a dynamic force for consumer advocacy, with members bringing diverse perspectives from across the PHN and LHD networks. This depth of experience generates informed, meaningful discussions that directly shape healthcare outcomes.

The CAC remains steadfast in advancing Joint Board priorities while amplifying the consumer voice at every level. Our members have made tangible contributions to critical initiatives spanning HealthPathways development, palliative care improvements, mental health and suicide prevention programs, Emergency Department experience and the Nepean Hospital redevelopment.

Looking ahead, we're strategically expanding our membership base to reflect our updated Terms of Reference. This growth will strengthen both our diversity of perspectives and geographic reach, ensuring our community has representation in shaping their healthcare future.