

## ABOUT GPCC

The General Practice Clinical Council (GPCC) is one of two Clinical Councils that serves as an advisory body directly to the Wentworth Healthcare Board.

## MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

Name	Eligible	Attended
Dr Louise McDonnell (Chair)	3	3
Dr Jialiang Chin (Blue Mountains)	2	2
Dr Simone Heiler (Blue Mountains)	5	4
Dr Kate Brunton (Hawkesbury)	6	0
Dr David Foley (Hawkesbury)	7	6
Dr Alex Williams (Hawkesbury)	6	6
Dr Babak Adeli (Lithgow)	7	0
Dr Hilton Brown (Lithgow)	7	4
Dr Ben Hanson (Lithgow)	2	2
Dr Anju Aggarwal (Penrith)	7	6
Dr Thu Dang (Penrith)	7	6
Dr Hany Gayed (Penrith)	7	7
<b>Resigned members</b>		
Dr Sue Owen (Blue Mountains)	4	2
Dr Linda McQueen (Blue Mtns)	4	2
Dr Michael Crampton (ex-Chair)	3	3

There were seven GPCC meetings held during FY24. One of the meetings was a combined meeting with the Allied Health Clinical Council focused on multidisciplinary team care.

We welcomed several new members during FY24 to replace members who had resigned. We farewelled Dr Linda McQueen and Dr Sue Owen and sincerely thanked them for their contributions. Dr Michael Crampton resigned as Chair. His work, including his considerable efforts throughout COVID were acknowledged and appreciated. Dr Crampton has been replaced by Dr Louise McDonnell as Chair.

## KEY MATTERS CONSIDERED FY 24

Major items of discussion and consultation included:

- **Voluntary Assisted Dying** – including service implementation and GP education needs.
- **Headspace Hawkesbury** consultation.
- **MyMedicare** implementation.
- **Statewide Referral Pathways** – including GP education needs.
- **Collaborative Commissioning** – respiratory care pathways in the community.
- **Residential Aged Care Homes** – workforce and IT system issues and their potential current and future impacts.
- **PHN Communication to GPs** – to ensure important information is conveyed in the best possible ways.

- **Palliative Care** – LHD sought feedback on challenges and enablers in palliative care to incorporate into a care model being developed.
- **Suicide prevention training for GPs** – a consultation with GPCC resulted in tailored training programs being developed in line with GP suggestions to increase accessibility for GPs to complete this important training.
- **Mental Health Services** – GPCC input was sought on how to best utilise some short-term funding that was available. Following consultation, a range of PTS services supporting increased access for people experiencing financial difficulties and broadening the range to include expressive therapies and DBT.
- **Combined Clinical Council event** – this event in November 2023 brought together GPs and Allied Health practitioners to discuss multidisciplinary team care. This meeting identified barriers and enablers and has informed our work in this space during 2024.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO FY 25

GPCC will continue to identify and discuss areas of importance to GPs in the region to identify program opportunities and areas for advocacy. We anticipate a continued focus on GPs in Residential Aged Care. Additionally, workforce issues, My Medicare and advice on implementation of our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

## **COMMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

### **Dr Louise McDonnell**

In January 2024 I took over from Dr Michael Crampton and I am delighted to be the new chair of the GPCC. The GPCC gives critical feedback to the Wentworth Healthcare Board on issues that affect General Practice. We have a new two-way communication that allows our current GPCC members to feed back to the Board on issues that are currently challenging grass roots General Practice. This enables both parties to further understand and work together to resolve the issues and challenges that together we face to ensure high quality primary health care in our area.

So far, we have had some constructive discussions on the mental health education needs of our GPs and the challenges faced by GPs working in RACFs. The information gathered has directly informed the programs and directions of the PHN. We have also provided vital input to the Palliative Care District Model of Care, currently under review by the LHD.

I warmly welcome two new GPCC members, Dr Jialiang Chin representing the Blue Mountains LGA and Dr Ben Hanson representing Lithgow LGA.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the fantastic team at the PHN who provide incredible support and make my role so much easier.

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