



**Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA  
Minister for Health; Mental Health**

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Our Ref: 76-22094

Mr Michael Walsh PSM  
Chair, Health Support Services Board

Via email: [Michael.walsh2@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Michael.walsh2@health.wa.gov.au)  
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Dear Mr Walsh *Michael*

**Statement of Expectations**

As the responsible Minister for the governing bodies of health service providers (HSP), my Statement of Expectations is to be read in the context of the functions and responsibilities of an HSP as listed in the *Health Services Act 2016*.

I expect the Health Support Services Board (Board) to report to me on a quarterly basis against the following expectations.

**COVID is the new normal**

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in significant disruption to the WA health system. I proudly recognise that through collaboration and innovation all HSPs worked to successfully respond to the challenges faced during the pandemic.

Whilst I expect the Board to continue to follow the plans and guidance issued by the Chief Health Officer and the Department of Health on the ongoing management of the pandemic, it is imperative that the appropriate level of COVID-19 response is now integrated into your HSP's business as usual activities, and that any Government priority projects or programs delayed due to COVID-19 are recommenced with a plan to recover lost time where possible.

I expect the Board to build on the learnings of the COVID-19 pandemic to expand innovation and increase collaboration across the WA health system.

**Sustainable Health Review – revised priorities**

The State Government is committed to the implementation of the Sustainable Health Review (SHR). WA Health continues to implement the Strategies and Recommendations of SHR which remains the blueprint for building an enduring health system.

Delivery of all SHR Recommendations will continue with a focus on select tranches of SHR Recommendations. This will enable the system to intensify efforts on achieving SHR outcomes and build momentum.

Over the next one to two years there will be a focus on six SHR Recommendations (Focus Recommendations) addressing timely access to outpatient services, models of care for people with complex conditions who are frequent presenters, funding approaches to support models of care and joint commissioning, 10-year digitisation, culture and innovation and workforce improvements.

Aboriginal cultural governance, Aboriginal health outcomes, mental health outcomes, health equity across diverse and vulnerable population groups, preventative healthcare and partnership approaches will be emphasised and embedded within all Focus Recommendations.

I expect the Board to actively promote and support delivery of the SHR.

### **Work Health and Safety**

The State Government is committed to health and safety for all workers, as evidenced in the recently enacted Work Health and Safety legislation. In ensuring your HSP is a safe place for people to work and to visit, I expect the Board to work collaboratively with the System Manager, and equally with your HSP executive, to ensure HSP legislative requirements are met, that workplace health and safety is a focus for the HSP and that your HSP works to improve its overall health and safety culture.

### **Increased Job Security**

Increasing job security through offering more permanent positions, reducing the use of fixed term contracts and casual modes of employment is of critical importance to the Government.

I expect the Board to concentrate its efforts to prioritise and ensure compliance with the fixed term contract and casual conversion to permanency provisions within the relevant industrial agreements. I also expect the Board to maximise the occasions of permanent employment and actively minimise insecure, temporary employment arrangements and in particular, the use of rolling fixed term contracts.

I expect the Board to prioritise and support initiatives which facilitate the commitment of 10 percent casual and agency usage for hospital support workers, and four percent casual and agency usage for salaried officers, to be achieved over the life of the relevant industrial agreement. I also expect the Board to maximise the incidences of permanent employment and actively minimise insecure, temporary employment arrangements in particular, the use of rolling fixed term contracts.

### **Procurement**

I expect the Board will manage procurement activity in accordance with relevant Western Australian legislation and frameworks, in particular the *Western Australian Jobs Act 2017*, with a view to maximising value for money and social, economic and environmental outcomes for Western Australians.

It is my expectation that Boards will support HSP executives to ensure local businesses have a fair and reasonable opportunity to access Western Australian Government supply contracts as they arise, and that local manufacturing is appropriately considered.

### **Implementation of election commitments and key ICT and infrastructure projects**

I expect the implementation of the Government's election commitments and key ICT and infrastructure projects to be prioritised:



- Delivery of Human Resources Management Information System;
- Medical Imaging Replacement Program;
- support the Electronic Medical Record Program in delivery of the Digital Medical Record; and
- ICT support for major infrastructure projects such as Peel Health Campus.

Implementation is subject to regular reporting.

### **Independent Governance Review**

The Independent Governance Review of the WA health system was commissioned to examine the current governance arrangements and make recommendations to Government on further maturing the effectiveness and efficiency of the governance and policy instruments as well as the *Health Services Act 2016*.

I expect the Board to support the accepted recommendations of the Governance Review, and work with the System Manager and Government to ensure the recommendations are implemented in a strategic and timely manner.

### **Advice to Government**

I expect the Board to provide accurate and timely advice to the Government on significant issues in its core areas of business and ensure progress is made in achieving the Government's priorities. Further, the Board will comply with the board assurance processes and requirement to submit an Annual Governance Attestation Statement to me at the conclusion of each financial year. The Board is expected to ensure my office is aware of all critical issues in a timely manner and is briefed appropriately at regular meetings.

### **Statement of Intent**

I look forward to receiving the Board's response to my Statement of Expectations in the form of a Statement of Intent as soon as practicable. I request that the Statement of Expectations and Statement of Intent be published on your website.

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank you for the considerable efforts of the Board in leading Health Support Services through the current pandemic while ensuring the people of Western Australia continue to access world class health care.

Kind regards



HON AMBER-JADE SANDERSON MLA  
**MINISTER FOR HEALTH; MENTAL HEALTH**

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