

FOREWORD

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is a joint committee of the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD) and Wentworth Healthcare Limited (WHL). 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.

The CAC met six times during the year. Meetings are up to 2 hours in duration and have been held via Zoom, except for one hybrid meeting held in February 2023. We are committed to continuing to offer virtual attendance options to enable broad participation.

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

Name and LGA represented	Eligible	Attended
Caroline Allen (Hawkesbury)	6	6
Peter Gooley (Hawkesbury)	6	6
Simon Griffin (Hawkesbury)	6	3
Priya Jensen (Blue Mountains)	6	6
Belinda Leonard (Chair) (Blue Mtns)	6	6
Natalie Rosten (Penrith)	6	5
Joe Rzepecki (Penrith)	6	6
Colleen Winterburn (Lithgow)	6	5
Andrew Wilson (Blue Mountains)	6	5

KEY MATTERS CONSIDERED 2023

Items of discussion and consultation with the CAC in the 2023 financial year included:

- Urgent Care Clinic
- Mental health services, including headspace and Head to Health
- Aged care activities
- NBMLHD Palliative Care Service Review
- Frailty Intervention program
- Nepean Hospital redevelopment
- Establishment of NBMLHD multicultural health reference group
- Greater Western Sydney shared activities and interests
- Issues with discharge summaries reaching GPs
- Health Needs Assessment
- Active Clinical Care Handover Model
- Health Literacy
- Feedback on NBMLHD Strategic Service Planning Focus Group
- Consumers in the research conference
- Medicare Taskforce Report – summary and feedback on consumer perspective of proposed changes
- Workforce shortages outside of the Penrith area
- Medical students’ decreasing interest in general practice
- Committee Evaluation and Improvement Plan

CONTINUING AREAS OF FOCUS IN 2024

In the 2024 financial year, we look forward to working with the CAC in a number of areas, including:

- Continued work on Health Literacy
- Contributing to the WHL Strategic Plan for 2024-2029.
- Program Specific Consumer Engagement advice
- Community and Consumer engagement strategies and projects
- Focusing on the integration of care between primary healthcare and the local health district services relating to Joint Board integrating care priorities.

CHAIR’S QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

Challenges, Highlights, and Outcomes

- The highlight of the year has been the continued alignment with the Joint Board priorities and the elevation of the consumer voice as an outcome.
- There has been a continued focus on health literacy, with the Health Literacy Working Group making solid progress.
- CAC members have contributed to a range of initiatives, including contributing to HealthPathways, palliative care, Nepean Hospital redevelopment, and the Greater Western Sydney Health Partnerships initiative.
- I was particularly pleased to contribute to the NSW PHN – NSW Health: Joint Statement - Establishing Joint Regional Planning Processes and Governance

- Despite the challenges with running meetings online to ensure a balance of contribution from all attendees, 2023 has again resulted in high attendance numbers.