

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	5
Priya Jensen (Blue Mtns)	5	3
Belinda Leonard (Chair) (Blue Mtns)	5	5
Joe Rzepecki (Penrith)	5	3
Colleen Winterburn (Lithgow)	5	4
Andrew Wilson (Blue Mtns)	5	5
Resigned members		
Natalie Rosten (Penrith)	3	2

CAC met five times during the year. Additionally, CAC members were invited to meet with the WHL Board on 27 March 2024.

Natalie Rosten resigned from CAC during the year. Her contributions over four years were acknowledged and appreciated.

KEY MATTERS CONSIDERED FY 24

Major items of discussion, and consultation included:

- GP Workforce Survey engagement strategies
- Medicare Urgent Care Clinic Penrith
- Joint Boards Integrating Care priorities
- WHL Health Needs Assessment engagement strategies
- WHL Strategic Plan 2024-2029
- Best Practice in Co-Design
- Closure of Nepean Hospital Paediatric ED and referral pathways
- Hawkesbury Hospital acquisition
- Nepean Hospital Fracture Clinic and UCC pathways
- WHL consumer engagement plans
- WHL Suicide Prevention community event
- Advanced Care Planning
- Needs Assessment 2023: CAC members feedback was sought on Disaster Management and Cancer Screening and incorporated into the 2023 Needs Assessment on these topics.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FY 25

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 and multicultural health. 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

We have a very engaged and active CAC with members engaged in various consumer advisory capacities across the PHN and LHD leading to rich and well-informed discussions.

The CAC continues to focus on the Joint Board priorities and the elevation of the consumer voice as an outcome.

CAC members have contributed to a range of initiatives, including HealthPathways, palliative care, mental health and suicide prevention and to broader activities including Nepean Hospital redevelopment, and the Greater Western Sydney Health Partnerships initiative.

As we look forward, there will be an increased focus on recruitment of additional members to align with our recently updated terms of reference and to ensure we achieve a balance between diversity of input and geographic representation.