

From the Board Chair Cheryl Vardon

Dear North West,

Over the last eight months since the Board was appointed, a shared commitment and priority has been to be on the ground in the North West, visiting our health services and talking to the people who live and work across our rural and remote sites. I am proud of the Board, which has visited many sites over the last few months and grateful to the staff who have so generously welcomed the Board and shared valuable insights into healthcare in our region.



We have been fortunate to be a part of the successes and challenges experienced by the Health Service this year, as well as several significant milestones and events. A particular highlight was visiting Cloncurry and Julia Creek in August. As we travelled, Board Member Linda Ford, a proud Bigambul First Nations woman, who grew up on Kalkadoon land, pointed out landmarks and points of interest across the beautiful landscape. It was great to learn about the region's rich history.

Some other highlights this year include:

- Opening the newly installed satellite renal dialysis chairs in Cloncurry
- Working closely with Western Queensland PHN, Gidgee Healing, North West Queensland Region of Councils, Better Health Queensland, Tropical Australian Academic Health Centre and North West Remote Health
- Meeting with Dental, Community Health and Child and Family Health teams and hearing the innovative and pragmatic solutions staff apply to get the best value and impact out of our allocated resources
- Launching the Health Equity Strategy in October that has been developed in partnership with First Nations People from across our region

Delivering healthcare in a unique rural and remote setting has its challenges, but the passion and commitment of our staff is evident across all sites. Thank you also to Board Members for their commitment to the North West.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to new Board Member Fiona Hill. Fiona is a local Mount Isa resident and proud First Nations woman. Fiona's experience will complement the Board's existing composition and I look forward to working with her. I would also like to congratulate Board Member, Eleanor Milligan who was recently appointed Deputy Chair of the North West Hospital and Health Board. Eleanor is also Chair of the Board's Safety, Quality and Clinician Engagement Committee and member of the Board's Executive Committee.

The Board is committed to working closely with communities to improve the delivery of high-quality healthcare across the region as we move into 2023. I look forward to continuing to visit our health centres to listen to your experiences firsthand. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to supporting our communities.

Cheryl