

ABOUT AHCC

The Allied Health Clinical Council (AHCC) is one of two Clinical Councils that serves as an advisory body directly to the Wentworth Healthcare Board.

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

Name	Eligible	Attended
Jillian Harrington (Chair, Penrith) Clinical Psychologist	5	5
Cara Bourke (Hawkesbury) Podiatrist	2	2
Christine Colusso-Craig Public Health Representative	5	4
Rudi Crncec (Penrith) Clinical Psychologist	5	3
Rebecca Hannon (Hawkesbury) Exercise Physiologist	5	4
Rainy Johnston (Blue Mountains) Pharmacist	5	4
Anne Lyell (Hawkesbury) Chiropractor	5	4
Gobika Srikanthan (Lithgow) Pharmacist	5	4
Adam Wilkes (Penrith, Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury) Physiotherapist	2	2
Susan Williams (Blue Mountains) Dietitian	2	2
Sally Webb (Lithgow) Physiotherapist	5	5

AHCC met five times during FY25. One of the meetings was a combined meeting with the GP Clinical Council which focused on Disaster and Emergency Planning.

We welcomed three new members during FY25, Adam Wilkes, Cara Bourke and Susan Williams.

KEY MATTERS CONSIDERED FY2025

Major items of discussion and consultation included:

- **National Allied Health Practice Engagement Toolkit** including service implementation and Allied Health education needs.
- **Multidisciplinary Team Care (MDT) pilot project** regular update regarding project planning, implementation and assessment sought from the Clinical Council.
- **Hospital Discharge** seeking advocacy from the PHN.
- **Communication** - between Allied Health Professionals and other Primary Care professionals including GPs.
- **Changes to Chronic condition MBS items numbers** – impact on Allied Health practice
- **Dementia Training** – consultation in 2024 led to training opportunities for allied health in 2025
- **AI impact on Allied Health** – special committee formed to discuss the development if an information evening provided for Allied Health

professionals discussing AI and the impact on practice and health delivery.

- **Combined Clinical Council event** – this event in December 2025 brought together GPs and Allied Health Practitioners to discuss Disaster and Emergency Management. This meeting identified barriers and enablers and has informed our work in this space during 2025. This topic is an ongoing area of focus for the AHCC.
- **Workforce pressures and barriers to access** to Allied healthcare services in our region.

LOOKING FORWARD TO FY25

The Allied Health Clinical Council will continue to identify and discuss key issues relevant to Allied Health Professionals in the region, with the goal of uncovering program opportunities and areas for advocacy. We anticipate an ongoing focus on multidisciplinary team care, the role of AI in allied health, and providing input on the implementation of our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

COMMENT FROM THE CHAIR

Jillian Harrington

2025 has a busy and productive year for the Allied Health Clinical Council.

Discussion and consultation with AHCC have ensured that the WHL Board and team is supported by a range of voices across different disciplines, work settings, geographical locations and career stages. The group has been a sounding board on a range of issues including Disaster and Emergency Management and Multi-Disciplinary Care in our region, including Wentworth Healthcare's current pilot project in MDT approaches to Diabetes. As clinicians who are passionate about our health system and the role of Allied Health, we've also continued to discuss and to advise the Board on broader issues as they play out in our region, including workforce issues, the impact of the NDIS, and medication short supply. Collaboration with Wentworth Healthcare's other committees ensures we keep our eye on our shared goals of supporting safe, high quality and accessible care for the people of our region.