

FOREWORD

Allied Health Clinical Council (AHCC) meetings were held on 24 August 2020, 16 November 2020, 22 February 2021 and 24 May 2021. The CACs reviewed the terms of reference during the year, which were approved by the Board. The next review is for late 2021. Meetings are 2 hours in duration and have been held via Zoom during the COVID period.

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

- Physiotherapist x2 (Penrith and Lithgow)
- Clinical Psychologist (Penrith x2)
- Psychologist and Family Therapist (Blue Mountains)
- Pharmacist (Portland)
- Exercise Physiologist (Hawkesbury x2)
- Chiropractor (Hawkesbury)
- Podiatrist (Penrith)

Name	Eligible	Attended
Rudi Crncec	4	3
Rebecca Hannon	4	4
Jillian Harrington (Chair)	4	4
Dr Anne Lyell	4	4
Cathy O'Brien	4	1
Jason Pilgrim ¹	4	2
Chris Scanlon	4	3
Gobika Srikanthan	4	4

¹ Completed Term August 2021

Emily Standen	4	2
Sally Webb	4	4

KEY MATTERS CONSIDERED 2020/21

The Board noted in February 2021 the CAC's achievements in the 2020 calendar year. In future, these will be reported to align to the Financial Year as part of this Annual report.

Items considered in the first six months of 2021 include,

- Input into WHL COVID response
- Feedback from AHCC on COVID-19 Needs
- Advising WHL of issues facing Allied Health (e.g., Telehealth, active ingredient prescribing changes)
- Health Pathways
- Health Literacy
- Feedback on "Your Practice Portal – the e-Learning Portal"

CONTINUING AREAS OF FOCUS IN 2022

Steps are in train for the AHCC in 2021/2022 to:

- Create a dialogue with the (Federal) Chief Allied Health Officer (attending next AHCC meeting 22 November 2021)
- Create an Allied Health Discussion paper outlining current challenges facing Allied Health
- Input into Contemporary issues (e.g., Domestic Violence, Penrith Adult Mental Health Centre)

- Workforce Planning
- Membership Review / replenishment to align with Council requirements for representation across regions, disciplines, career stages and business models.

CHAIR'S QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

Challenges, Highlights and Outcomes

- An ongoing challenge for the Allied Health Professions, especially in our region, is the shortfall in qualified AH providers and qualified staff, with impact on providers, but also on access for consumers in the communities we serve.
- The AHCC is unique as a stand-alone PHN Clinical Council, and while our ability to influence issues that affect Allied health outside the scope of Wentworth Healthcare can be limited, we continue to support Wentworth Healthcare's engagement in this space.
- The AHCC is a very positive Committee committed to improving the Health and Allied Health workforce in our region.