

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	4	4
Rainy Johnston (Blue Mountains) Pharmacist	1	1
Christine Colusso-Craig Public Health Representative	2	1
Anne Lyell (Hawkesbury) Chiropractor	4	4
Gobika Srikanthan (Lithgow) Pharmacist	4	3
Sally Webb (Lithgow) Physiotherapist	4	3
Rudi Crncec (Penrith) Psychologist	4	4
Rebecca Hannon (Hawkesbury) Exercise Physiologist	4	3
Resigned members		
Emily Standen	3	0
Jacqueline Faehring	2	1

AHCC met four times during FY24. One of the meetings was a combined meeting with the GP Clinical Council which focused on multidisciplinary team care.

We welcomed two new members during FY24, Christine Colusso-Craig as a Public Health representative and Rainy Johnston as a new member representing the Blue Mountains LGA. We farewelled Jacqueline Faehring and Emily Standen during the year, and we sincerely thank them for their contributions.

KEY MATTERS CONSIDERED FY2024

Major items of discussion and consultation included:

- **Voluntary Assisted Dying** including service implementation and Allied Health education needs.
- Potential multidisciplinary **CPD Opportunities** for Allied Health in 2024.
- **Strategic Plan** – valuable feedback incorporated into the 2024-2029 plan.
- **Suicide prevention** – consultation with AHCC resulted in work to better tailor training to meet the needs of allied health professionals.
- **Role of Allied Health Professionals in reducing ED presentations.**
- **Cost of living pressures** – members have noted an increase in cancellations or putting off medical appointments due to current cost of living pressures.

- **Multidisciplinary Team Care (MDT) – Combined Clinical Council event** – this event in November 2023 brought together GPs and Allied Health practitioners to discuss multidisciplinary team care. This meeting identified barriers and enablers and has informed our work in this space during 2024. 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

AHCC will continue to identify and discuss areas of importance to Allied Health Professionals in the region to identify program opportunities and areas for advocacy. We anticipate a continued focus on multidisciplinary team care, allied health engagement and advice on implementation of our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

COMMENT FROM THE CHAIR

Jillian Harrington

2024 has been another busy year for the Allied Health Clinical Council, with a full agenda and much productive discussion and collaboration, centred on the issues that impact Allied Health care in our region. The group is a useful sounding board for the WHL Board and team and mirrors the primary care landscape we'd all like to see – with communication and collaborative problem-solving around the issues facing people in our region.