

Governance

Role and function of the Board

The JH&FMHN Board carries out its functions, responsibilities and obligations in accordance with the *Health Services Act 1997* (NSW) and determinations of the NSW Minister for Health.

The Board's Charter ensures that its primary governing responsibilities are fulfilled in relation to:

- setting the strategic direction for the organisation and its services
- monitoring financial and service delivery performance
- ensuring clinical governance responsibilities are clearly allocated and understood
- maintaining high standards of professional and ethical conduct
- involving stakeholders in decisions that affect them; and
- establishing sound audit and risk management practices.

Membership

The JH&FMHN Board consists of an independent Chair, eight independent members and five invited attendees including the Network Chief Executive.

The Board met on six occasions in 2015/16.



Back Row (left to right) Mr Ken Barker, Prof Terry Campbell, Mr Adrian Bartels, Mr Ian Gillespie; and Mr Stuart Loveday.
Front Row Ms Alison Churchill, Mr Gary Forrest (Chief Executive, JH&FMHN), Mr Chris Puplick AM (Chair, JH&FMHN Board), Dr Penny Abbott; and Mr Peter Dwyer. **Absent:** Michelle Eason, Shireen Malamoo

Board Subcommittees

The JH&FMHN Board operations are supported by its subcommittees:

- Finance and Performance Committee
- Clinical Council
- Audit and Risk Management Committee
- Community Reference Group
- Medical and Dental Appointments Advisory Committee
- Research Advisory Committee
- Quality Council

Our governance framework plays an integral role in supporting the Network's operations and helping us deliver on our strategy. It provides the structure through which our strategy and business objectives are set, our performance is monitored, and the risks we face are managed. This framework guides decision making and accountability across our business, including the standards of behaviour we expect of our staff.

2015/16 Key Highlights

- Our long-serving and much valued Chief Executive, Julie Babineau moved on in March 2016, after many years with the Network. Following an extensive recruitment process, the Board was delighted to appoint Gary Forrest to take on this challenging role. Gary brings a wealth of experience to the position and the Board looks forward to working with him to implement his plans for the Network's future development. New legislation redefining the relationship between Local Health Districts or Speciality Network Boards and their Chief Executives has been passed and will materially alter lines of accountability and responsibility for both parties from 2017.
- The Board continues to drive discussions with the Ministry that will result in the adoption of the first Strategic Plan for Forensic Mental Health Services in NSW and a revised formula that will place our ongoing funding on a sounder footing.
- We have monitored and noted achievement of the goals set out in our current *2013-2017 Strategic Plan* and *2015/16 Service Agreement*. This is particularly significant in light of the current Corrective Services Reforms underway in NSW, and the increasing number of adults and young people in custody, which presented a great challenge to the Network, its staff and resources. These challenges were met in full but the pressure continues.
- In partnership with CS NSW, we successfully implemented the NSW Government's Smoke-Free Prisons Policy and are currently rolling out the new wave of treatment for Hepatitis C with an intervention which promises to be a complete cure.
- The Board has been active in its meetings, visiting various facilities, engaging in planning and education sessions and hosting visits by key members of the Government and other NSW Agencies.
- Our relationships with our numerous partner agencies both government and non-government have continued to flourish and develop.

In all that we have done in 2015/16, we have never lost sight of our primary responsibility to provide quality care to all our patients and to enhance the quality and positive culture of the workplace for all our staff.