

Monday 12 July 2010



MEDIA RELEASE

NEW HOSPITAL BOARD ANNOUNCED

Wimmera Health Care Group is very pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Mark Williams as its new president and chair. The Board elected Mr Williams to the role at their July meeting.

Mr Williams replaces Ms Bonnie Thompson who has presided over Wimmera Health Care Group for the past two years. In assuming the role, Mr Williams has acknowledged the significant contribution Ms Thompson has made over the past two years in providing leadership and direction to Wimmera Health Care Group.

“There have been many challenges for the organisation over the past two years and Ms Thompson steps down from the position in the knowledge that Wimmera Health Care Group continues to provide quality clinical services to the Wimmera region.

“Bonnie has done an excellent job in the period and one of the more notable achievements being the reaccreditation of Wimmera Health Care Group for a five year period.”

Mr Williams joined the Wimmera Health Care Group Board of Management in November 2001. He brings extensive experience in public administration, finance and corporate governance to the position through previous roles in the health, utility and government sectors.

At the same meeting, Ms Leigh-Anne Sharrock, Mr Philip Sabien and Ms Bonnie Thompson returned as Vice Presidents. The Board also welcomes new member Rob Pyers filling a Board vacancy that has existed for the past two years.

Mr Williams said that he was very keen to take on this very important role in serving our community.

“I come to the position knowing that Wimmera Health Care Group is well run, with high quality and respected staff, who are ready and willing to take on new challenges. It is because of these very special people that we are able to deliver outstanding care in a safe environment”.

“As the major sub-regional acute referral hospital in this part of Victoria, it is essential that continuity of leadership and future direction of the service is not disturbed. We need to meet the demands on our resources and rise to the challenges ahead” he said.

Mr Williams said that the Board had a broad range of skills, experience and knowledge, enabling them to provide sound governance and leadership to the organisation. “We will work together with management to drive forward the health needs of this community. These are exciting times for Wimmera Health Care Group and we are up to the challenge” he said.

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