

Introduction from the Chair

2016 - 2017



“The past year has been one of achievement for WALSH Trust, which is particularly significant given the extent of change taking place in mental health. Increased demand for services in the community and the pressure to deliver more for less.”

Throughout the year the Board has maintained a strong focus on the value and impact of the organisation’s work and on the long term stability of the organisation. I am pleased to report that we are making good progress on refining what we do and how we do it. Achieving a balanced budget while building a new building on land we have carefully retained for a special purpose project is a great achievement - and congratulations go to all those involved.

This work, and our annual result, demonstrates that we, with our partner organisations in the community sector are not just nice people doing the right thing by our service users but have the expertise to deliver productivity and efficiency so needed by our mental health system. Knowing what people in the community need is our speciality and this has a vital role to play in the decisions made about service provision.

The smooth adoption of a new management structure and the notable success of its intended purpose, to provide an integrated service model, is a credit to our CEO Rob Warriner and the new leaders, all of whom were employees of WALSH. The opportunities provided by the flat structure for innovation and gathering of a wide range of ideas will help the Board develop its strategic agenda. We have the very best, well qualified people working with us and we value not only their skills but their thoughts and ideas to meet the challenges we face.

This year we were pleased to have a collective approach to our Strategic Planning process and I am proud to present our Mission, Values and Goals to you. The fact that the work was a refresh of our current plan indicates that our approach to planning is about developing a strategy that is outwardly focussed, mapped against the vision of our organisation and reviewed and tested by the Board. We have learnt and continue to explore the importance of being a strategically aware Board incorporating new opportunities and knowledge of real world trends and experiences to enable us to problem solve and find new solutions. Our plan will not sit on a shelf – it will continue to be refreshed.

“Mental Health Services across Australia and New Zealand have undergone unprecedented change over the past 10 years. Over the next 10 years we anticipate even more. Adherence to the principles of recovery and recognition of lived experience as a key to mental health reform are expanding the range of choices beyond traditional illness management” (theMHS conference 2017)

The Board has worked on an innovative challenge facilitating conversations with our service users, families and community. We have called it ‘The Action Hub’ and its purpose initially was to:

- talk about WALSH services, supports and issues;
- talk about what is working, what is not working and what could be done better; and
- to communicate with the WALSH Trust Board and work together towards shaping healthy lives, shaping healthy communities.

We have learnt a tremendous amount from the gatherings to date, listening to lived experiences and the extraordinary strengths; the knowledge and understanding participants have of their situations and their need to create their own individual solutions for recovery. We thank those who have been involved and our collective development of this project can only mean these voices will help inform change, test the direction and quality of our service provision and provide evidence for system changes.

I am very lucky to work with a Board of hard working, committed, excellent decision makers and strategic thinkers. I would like to introduce them to you:

- Suzanne Sinclair - Chair
- Andrew Cawston
- David Lui
- Ian MacClure
- Gayleen Maurice
- Gail Tongs
- Robyn Fausett
- Kaylene Parr
- Madhavan Raman - Chair of the Finance Committee
- Bram Kukler – Strategic Advisor
- Jo Fitzpatrick – On leave

The Board has met monthly and we were delighted to welcome back former Board Member Madhavan Raman and thank him for his excellent work as Chair of the Finance Committee (which also meets monthly). We have included stakeholders in our meetings and have worked hard to collect and manage data that is useful for us and for our partners.

We are incredibly lucky to have Fiona Mackenzie as Board Secretary and every now and then when she is away we learn the hard way the value of her work. Thank you Fiona and the Administration Team who collectively keep us on track.

We all thank Rob Warriner, our CEO, particularly for his always excellent inclusive reporting to the Board; his respect for the important partnership between Governance and Management that enables WALSH to always move forward and his willingness to listen, contribute and provide advice, is invaluable. Rob's networking and membership of sector collaborations in New Zealand and overseas adds real value to our work.

What of the future?

WALSH is well placed to move forward, however standing alone is not an option and we will continue to support a whole system transformation with a focus on community services so vital for advancing good mental health care. Improved partnership and collaborative approaches to enable the best use of resources need to be and taken seriously by all. There is work to be done building a commitment to action, rather than review.



Suzanne Sinclair
Board Chair