



MEDIA RELEASE

Heywood Rural Health

2016 Annual General Meeting / Open Access Meeting

Date: 23 November 2016

Heywood Rural Health's 2016 AGM/Open Access Meeting

'Heywood Rural Health has had a very success year and the Board of Management has had a very clear vision for the *health and wellbeing* of our community'.

A statement expressed by Heywood Rural Health's Board Chair, Ms Patricia McLean in opening the 2016 Annual General Meeting / Open Access Meeting.

The development of a three year Strategic Plan has been a highlight for the Board to articulate this vision to our CEO and the organisation. The Strategic Plan sets the roadmap for change and renewal. The Board developed a forward thinking Plan that involved a multi-faceted approach; this included determining community priorities, directions and plans for the future that were sustainable and person centered. We also worked extensively with consumers, our staff and the wider networks to plan and develop an innovative framework.

In developing our Strategic Plan, our focus remains on the fact that our Community has needs and a number of challenges associated with living in a Rural and Remote community.

Our vision statement; *committed to the health and wellbeing of our community* compels us to continue to advocate for local services that meet these needs in a way that is person centred and community focused.

To help us achieve these outcomes, we need to ensure that our staff are fully engaged and prepared for the changes ahead of us; that our business processes are robust and sustainable, and that the services we provide to the community are relevant and responsive to their needs.

Trish congratulated the staff and management for their commitment and dedication over the last twelve months.

“We have achieved a number of outcomes during the past 12 months:

- Home Care Packages Program, External Quality review
- Accreditation in the National Safety and Quality Service Standards (NSQHS).
- Aged Care Accreditation in June 2016. In addition to this achievement, Heywood Medical Services achieved GP accreditation.

The lead up to the transition of My Aged Care and the NDIS has given the Board and the organisation the opportunity to review and assess our priorities and ways of working to ensure we are meeting the needs of our community with the services we provide. Community consultation has been an important factor in ensuring we get it right and our organisation is flexible enough to meet the challenges of healthcare in the present environment.

In summary, 2015 - 2016 has been a big year, with many challenges, but also successes.” Trish said.

Trish thanked the staff and volunteers for their ongoing commitment and fully acknowledged the importance Heywood Rural Health plays in responding to and supporting the needs of our community.

This year’s guest speaker, Peter Ruzyla, CEO of EACH Social and Community Health spoke on the importance of community health within small rural areas. Peter’s speech was inspiring and insightful, discussing the significance of community health, health promotion from a person centred approach to care delivery.

Staff Awards

Heywood Rural Health recognised a number of exceptional staff by awarding the following awards:



Encouraging Excellence Award: Rhonda Finch

As the face of Heywood Rural Health, Rhonda (Ronnie) was recognised for her excellence in the service provided to residents, colleagues and members of our community.

Staff Excellence Award: Sally McClintoch

Sally was recognised for her notable contribution in upholding values of Heywood Rural Health; respect, responsiveness, care and integrity.

CEO's Above and Beyond Award: Rachael Moore

Rachael was recognised for her notable contribution in achieving excellence and innovation in clinical care, organisation-wide practice, service delivery and performance measurement.

Staff Education Scholarship Awards

This year, two staff were awarded the Heywood Rural Health Education Scholarship award to support their current studies.

Amanda Langford is currently undertaking studies in the Bachelor of Nursing stream, and Anita Lang has commenced her studies, Certificate IV Human Resources / Leadership / Management.

Congratulations Amanda and Anita as you continue with your studies.