

Tuesday, 26 November 2019

AGM adds another GP voice to Board

General Practitioner and clinical researcher Dr Jenny Schafer will bring a unique combination of career experiences to Brisbane North PHN, following her appointment to the PHN's Board of Directors at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday, 13 November 2019.

Having practised in Brisbane North for many years, Dr Schafer is also a current board director with Arthritis Queensland and a senior research manager at Wesley Medical Research.

Dr Schafer may be well known to many from her media work some years ago as a Channel 9 medical reporter and Sunday Mail columnist.

In other AGM announcements, Mark Henley and Stan Macionis were returned as Board Directors.

PHN Chief Executive Officer Abbe Anderson congratulated the new Board of Directors, saying the balance of experience and perspectives among its members will ensure the organisation continues to provide strong primary healthcare leadership.

"I am pleased for our new and continuing Directors. Dr Jenny Schafer is a welcome addition to our Board, helping to bolster the voice of GPs in PHN decision making," Ms Anderson said.

"Dr Schafer has a long connection with our organisation. She and I worked closely together to develop the role of the Medical Assistant in Australia, now recognised with a nationally accredited Certificate IV qualification," she said.

"Mark Henley has been on our board since 2015. He is currently CEO at the QLD Council of Social Services (QCOS) and was formerly on the board of National Disability Services.

"Mr Henley's experience as an accountant has been of great benefit to the PHN in his role as chair of our Board's Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee.

"Stan Macionis is another long-serving Board Director. First appointed in 2013, Mr Macionis currently chairs our Board's Governance Committee.

"Mr Macionis also serves as a member of the Mental Health Review Tribunal and the AHPRA Nursing and Midwifery Board. He was previously CEO at Medibank Health Solutions and then with RSL Care," Ms Anderson said.

AGM attendees heard from guest speaker Simon Cotterell, First Assistant Secretary at the Department of Health and Ageing, who spoke about the Government's intention to develop a 10-year Primary Health Care Plan.

For information on the PHN's Board of Directors for 2018/19, go to <https://www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au/page/about/our-team/directors/>.

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To view the PHN's 2018/19 Digital Year in Review, go to <https://www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au/yearinreview/>.

ENDS

Editor's note:

For press quality images of Abbe Anderson, go to:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xvb3wcmInjhcrxh/AAAeSmIShzXfHyRng67UK8F9a?dl=0>

About Brisbane North PHN

Brisbane North PHN is one of 31 Primary Health Networks nationwide and supports clinicians and communities within North Brisbane, Moreton Bay and parts of the Somerset region. The PHN covers approximately 4,100 km² of urban, regional and rural areas, with a population of over one million people.

The key objectives of the PHN are:

- increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and
- improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.