Media Statement

14 October 2026

Three new members welcomed to Rural Health West Board

Rural Health West is pleased to announce the election of three new directors to its Board.

Shire of Leonora Chief Executive Officer Ty Matson, medical practitioner Dr Pippin Holmes and podiatrist Dr Andrew Schox were welcomed to the Rural Health West Board this week.

Mr Matson, who was elected as Country Local Government Director, has more than 25 years' experience across local and state government, environmental health, regulatory services, emergency management and public sector leadership. He has worked with health providers, government agencies, and Aboriginal organisations to improve services and outcomes for remote communities.

He brings strong governance skills, strategic thinking, financial oversight, and a practical understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing rural WA.

Dr Holmes, who has spent the majority of her career in rural WA, including the past nine years in Geraldton, was elected as a Health Professional Director – Medical. Having grown up in the Midwest, she has a deep personal and professional understanding of the strengths and challenges facing rural and remote communities.

Dr Holmes is also the Academic Lead for the Final Year Medical Program with the Rural Clinical School of Western Australia. She led the expansion of the final year program, creating additional opportunities for students to train, live, and establish regional careers. She has completed formal governance training through the AICD Governance Foundations for Not-for-Profit Directors course and the Governance Institute of Australia's Certificate in Governance and Risk Management.

Dr Schox, elected as a Health Professional Director – Allied Health, brings close to two decades of governance experience across multiple boards, including the Podiatrists Registration Board of WA, the Australasian Podiatry Council (as National Delegate and President), the Australasian Council of Podiatry Deans and Advocare Incorporated at Chair. He currently chairs Melville Cares and holds GAICD accreditation.

The Perth podiatrist is a co-proprietor of a 15-staff practice which has delivered outreach podiatry services to Karratha and other Pilbara locations since 2022.

Rural Health West Board Chair Gary Smith said he looked forward to working alongside the three new directors who will bring diverse skills and experience to the Board.

“Ty, Pippin and Andrew all bring unique but equally important perspectives to the Board,” Gary said.

“Andrew’s governance expertise and current, practical service delivery exposure will help us guide our service delivery into the future.

“Pippin brings a combination of frontline rural clinical experience, medical education leadership and workforce development expertise.”

“Hailing from a local government with a strong interest in health service provision, Ty will provide the Board with unique insight into how local governments are responding to healthcare challenges in their communities.

Gary thanked physiotherapist David Rigby, Associate Professor Mathew Coleman, and Cr Liz Guidera who completed their terms on the Board in October.

“The Board would like to thank David, Mathew and Liz who provided crucial contributions during their time here,” he said.

Mental Health Academic Chantal Bachere was re-elected to the Board in her current capacity of Health Professional Director – Nursing and Midwifery.

ENDS

Media contact:

Sarah Fittock, Rural Health West, 0414 225 764

Rural Health West *aims to improve access to quality healthcare for rural communities through the provision of a highly skilled, motivated and sustainable medical and allied health workforce. We are a not-for-profit organisation primarily funded through the WA Country Health Service and the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.*