



bureau of
health
information

Corporate Governance Attestation Statement

Financial Year ended 30 June 2018

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ATTESTATION STATEMENT

Financial Year ended 30 June 2018

The following corporate governance attestation statement has been endorsed by a resolution of the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) Board.

The Board is responsible for the corporate governance practices of BHI. This statement sets out the main corporate governance practices in operation within BHI for the financial year 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

A signed copy of this statement has been provided to the NSW Ministry of Health.

Signed:



Professor Carol Pollock

Chairperson

Signed:



Dr Diane Watson

Chief Executive

STANDARD 1: ESTABLISH ROBUST GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT FRAMEWORKS

Role and function of the Board

The Board of the Bureau of Health Information (the Board) carries out its functions, responsibilities and obligations in accordance with the *Health Services Act 1997* and the determination of functions for BHI as approved by the Minister for Health.

The Board has in place practices that ensure that the primary governing responsibilities of the Board are fulfilled in relation to:

- A.** Ensuring clinical and corporate governance responsibilities are clearly allocated and understood
- B.** Setting the strategic direction for BHI and its services
- C.** Monitoring financial and service delivery performance
- D.** Maintaining high standards of professional and ethical conduct
- E.** Involving stakeholders in decisions that affect them
- F.** Establishing sound audit and risk management practices.

Board Meetings

For the financial year 1st July 2017 to 30 June 2018 the Board consisted of a Chair and eight members appointed by the Minister for Health. In addition, The Chief Executive is an ex-officio member of the Board. The Board met eight times during this period.

Authority and role of senior management

All financial and administrative authorities have been delegated by a formal resolution of the Board and are formally documented in a Delegations Manual for BHI.

The roles and responsibilities of the Chief Executive and other senior management within BHI are also documented in written position descriptions.

Regulatory responsibilities and compliance

The Board is responsible for and has mechanisms in place to ensure that relevant legislation and regulations are adhered to within all facilities and units of BHI, including statutory reporting requirements.

The Board also has a mechanism in place to gain reasonable assurance that BHI complies with the requirements of all relevant government policies and NSW Health policy directives and policy and procedure manuals as issued by the Ministry of Health.

STANDARD 2: ENSURING CLINICAL AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITIES ARE CLEARLY ALLOCATED AND UNDERSTOOD

The Board has in place frameworks and systems for measuring and routinely reporting on Corporate Governance and the safety and quality of care provided to the community.

It is noted that BHI does not have a Clinical Governance function as it does not deliver patient care nor does BHI employ staff who are required to undertake a clinical role. Accordingly, BHI does not require a Medical and Dental Appointments Advisory committee or a Credentials Sub Committee.

STANDARD 3: SETTING THE STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR BHI AND ITS SERVICES

The Board has in place strategic plans for the effective planning and delivery of its services to the communities and individuals served by BHI. This process includes setting strategic direction for both BHI and the services it provides within the overarching goals and priorities of the NSW State Health Plan.

Organisation-wide planning processes and documentation is also in place, with a three to five year horizon, covering:

- Asset management
- Information management and technology
- Research and teaching
- Workforce development
- Aboriginal Health Action Plan

STANDARD 4: MONITORING FINANCIAL AND SERVICE DELIVERY PERFORMANCE

Role of the Board in relation to financial management and service delivery

The Board is responsible for ensuring compliance with the NSW Health Accounts and Audit Determination and the annual Ministry of Health budget allocation advice.

The Board is also responsible for ensuring that the financial and performance reports it receives and those submitted to its Finance and Performance Committee and the Ministry of Health are accurate and that relevant internal controls for BHI are in place. To this end, the Board certifies that:

- The financial reports submitted to the Finance and Performance Committee and the Ministry of Health represent a true and fair view, in all material respects, of BHI's financial condition and the operational results are in accordance with the relevant accounting standards
- The recurrent budget allocations in the Ministry of Health's financial year advice reconcile to those allocations distributed to organisation units and cost centres

- Overall financial performance is monitored and reported to the Finance and Performance Committee of BHI
- Information reported in the Ministry of Health monthly reports reconciles to and is consistent with reports to the Finance and Performance Committee
- All relevant financial controls are in place
- Creditor levels comply with Ministry of Health requirements
- Write-offs of debtors have been approved by duly authorised delegated officers
- The Public Health Organisation General Fund has not exceeded the Ministry of Health approved net cost of services allocation
- BHI did not incur any unfunded liabilities during the financial year
- The Chief Finance Officer has reviewed the internal liquidity management controls and practices and they comply with Ministry of Health requirements.

The Internal Auditor has reviewed the above during the financial year.

Service and Performance agreements

A written service agreement referred to as the Performance Agreement was in place during the financial year between the Board and the Secretary, NSW Health; and performance agreements between the Board and the Chief Executive. It is noted that apart from the Chief Executive, there are no other Health Executive Service (HES) members employed by BHI.

The Board has mechanisms in place to monitor the progress of matters contained within the Performance Agreement and to regularly review performance against agreements between the Board and the Chief Executive.

The Finance and Performance Committee

The Board has established a Finance and Performance Committee to assist the Board and the Chief Executive to ensure that the operating funds, capital works funds and service outputs required of BHI are being managed in an appropriate and efficient manner.

The Finance and Performance Committee was chaired by Andrew Goodsall. The committee comprises all members of the Board. The Chief Executive, who is an ex-officio member of the Board, attends all meetings of the Finance and Performance Committee unless on approved leave.

The Finance and Performance Committee receives bi-monthly reports that include:

- Financial performance of each major cost centre
- Liquidity management and performance
- Activity performance against indicators and targets in the performance agreement for BHI

- Advice on the achievement of strategic priorities identified in the performance agreement for BHI
- Year to date and end of year projections on capital works and private sector initiatives.

It is noted that BHI does not have any Special Purpose and Trust funds. Letters to management from the Auditor-General, Minister for Health and the NSW Ministry of Health relating to significant financial and performance matters are also tabled at the Finance and Performance Committee.

STANDARD 5: MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL CONDUCT

BHI has adopted the NSW Health Code of Conduct to guide all staff and contractors in professional conduct and ethical behaviour.

The Code of Conduct is distributed to all new staff and is included on the agenda of all staff induction programs. The Board has systems and processes in place to ensure the Code is periodically reinforced for all existing staff. Ethics education is also part of BHI's learning and development strategy.

The Chief Executive, as the principal officer for BHI, has reported all known cases of corrupt conduct, where there is a reasonable belief that corrupt conduct has occurred, to the Independent Commission Against Corruption, and has provided a copy of those reports to the Ministry of Health.

For the reporting period, BHI reported nil cases of corrupt conduct.

Policies and procedures are in place to facilitate the reporting and management of public interest disclosures within BHI in accordance with state policy and legislation, including establishing reporting channels and evaluating the management of disclosures.

For the reporting period, BHI reported nil public interest disclosures.

STANDARD 6: INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS IN DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEM

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the rights and interests of BHI's key stakeholders are incorporated into BHI's plans and that they are provided access to balanced and understandable information about BHI and its proposals. Information on key policies, plans and initiatives of BHI and information on how to participate in their development are available to staff and the public on BHI's website.

BHI engages with stakeholders to ensure its work is informed, collaborative and accurate. Prior to the release of each report, BHI informs key stakeholders about the findings and estimated dates of release of the reports.

The community, including stakeholders, can readily access public information relating to BHI's reports and activities, including research, on its website at bhi.nsw.gov.au

Stakeholder activity in 2017–18 included:

- Reports – BHI receives feedback from peer reviewers and data custodians on draft reports. BHI incorporates the feedback that it deems useful to improve the relevance, accuracy, comparability and interpretability of its reports.
- Committees – BHI invites participation from international experts, local health districts, the NSW Ministry of Health, Pillars and research institutions on a number of Advisory Committees. These groups are set up as needed to consult and support BHI's reports and work plans. BHI also contributes expert advice to other organisations.
- Working collaboratively – BHI is working collaboratively with other Pillars (Cancer Institute NSW, Agency for Clinical Innovation, Clinical Excellence Commission) and organisations (for example, the Sax Institute) on a range of projects.
- Presentations and conferences – BHI staff, in particular the Chief Executive, presented to a wide variety of audiences in the healthcare sector, attending conferences both within Australia and internationally, meetings and visiting hospitals and local health districts.
- Visits from international experts – International visitors during the year included experts and academics from organisations and universities. This provided a great opportunity to exchange knowledge, look at international best practice and hear about strategies being used in different jurisdictions.
- Online and media – BHI ensures that all its reports and supporting material is available on its website. Coverage is proactively sought in print, radio, television and specialist media as a way of informing the community about BHI's reports.

BHI is guided by its Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement Framework in the development of its relationships with other organisations.

STANDARD 7: ESTABLISHING SOUND AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Role of the Board in relation to audit and risk management

The Board is responsible for supervising and monitoring risk management by BHI and its facilities and units, including BHI's system of internal control. The Board receives and considers all reports of the External and Internal Auditors for BHI and, through the Audit and Risk Management Committee, ensures that audit recommendations and recommendations from related external review bodies are implemented.

BHI has a current Risk Management Plan. The Plan covers all known risk areas including:

- Leadership and management
- Finance (including fraud prevention)
- Information management
- Workforce
- Security and safety
- Facilities and asset management
- Emergency and disaster planning

- Community expectations.

It is noted that the following risk areas (as indicated by the Ministry) are not covered in BHI Risk Register as they do not directly relate to BHI role and functions-

- Health of the population
- Clinical care

Audit and Risk Management Committee

The Board has established an Audit and Risk Management Committee with the following core responsibilities:

- To assess and enhance BHI's corporate governance, including its systems of internal control, ethical conduct and probity, risk management, management information and internal audit
- To ensure that appropriate procedures and controls are in place to provide reliability in BHI's financial reporting, safeguarding of assets, and compliance with BHI's responsibilities, regulatory requirements, policies and procedures
- To oversee and enhance the quality and effectiveness of BHI's internal audit function, providing a structured reporting line for the Internal Auditor and facilitating the maintenance of their independence
- Through the internal audit function, to assist the Board to deliver BHI's outputs efficiently, effectively and economically via the internal audit function, so as to obtain best value for money and to optimise organisational performance in terms of quality, quantity and timeliness
- To maintain a strong and candid relationship with external auditors, facilitating to the extent practicable, an integrated internal/external audit process that optimises benefits to BHI.

The Internal Audit and Risk Management Attestation Statement for the 12 month period ending 30 June 2018 submitted to the Ministry, is without exception.

The Audit and Risk Management Committee comprises: Independent Chairperson, Greg Rochford, Independent Member, Michael Silk and BHI Board representative, Ian Gillespie. The invitees to the committee include the BHI Chief Executive (also an ex officio Board member), the Director of Corporate Affairs (Chief Audit Executive), and the HealthShare Chief Finance Officer.

The Audit and Risk Management Committee held four ordinary meetings as well as two special meetings during the financial year.

The Chair of the Audit and Risk Management Committee has right of access to the Secretary of the NSW Health, the Board Chair and the Chief Executive.

There are no qualifications required for this Corporate Governance Attestation Statement.