



Public Submission Form

Please complete this sheet and submit with any attachments at the [Submission Portal](#).

The submission and survey responses you provide will help to inform the Expert Panel's advice in its Report to Government on the Review. The Government may use that Report to inform future changes to laws and policies relating to the governance of the WA health system.

Please contact the Review Secretariat at IndependentGovernanceReview@health.wa.gov.au if you have any further questions about your submission or survey response and how your information will be handled.

Your Personal Details

You are not required to provide any personal information to make a submission to this review. All fields on this submission form relating to personal information are optional.

If you do provide your email address, we may use it to provide you consolidated feedback on the submissions we receive or seek clarification on your submission.

If you do provide this information you can still opt for your submission to remain anonymous.

We will never publish your contact details. Your contact details will only be used for this consultation.

Title	Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Organisation	
First Name(s)	Meredith
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Publication of Your Submission

Submissions will be published at [Independent Governance Review of the Health Services Act 2016](#) unless you have chosen to make a confidential submission.

- Publish my submission with my name and/or organisation
- Publish my submission anonymously
- Do not publish my submission (confidential submission)



Submission Response Field

Please type your response into the field below. Alternatively, you may provide your submission as a separate attachment (suggested maximum five (5) pages).

Please do not provide the following types of information in your submission and/or survey response:

- *Information that would identify a third party (for example, the name of a patient, clinician or administrator). We may redact or not publish submissions that identify third parties, or that are regarded as defamatory or discriminatory.*
- *Sensitive information including your race or ethnic origin or political opinion.*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this independent governance review.

My submission is narrow in focus, given that I am expecting that others will provide a broader perspective.

Having been a board member with WA Country Health for 5 years, from 2016 – 2021, appointed to bring the consumer/community perspective to the board table, I found the experience to have an overarching sense of ‘not quite getting there’. Much experience, enthusiasm, skill and knowledge was gathered together by all board members. However, unlike other boards of large organisations, there were many, many limitations in place to prevent ideal strategies being able to be realised. I appreciate that there are many political factors that are in place to support the state health system. Some of these prevented good change from being implemented. For example, human resource processes.

Health Services have clear standards to comply with and to clearly define ‘what a good service’ looks like. So measuring the effectiveness of the new governance system can be clearly seen - not even including managing Covid. The Sustainable Health Review outcomes, I submit are really good guides on how to implement positive change. Perhaps consideration could be given to seeing them be implemented and realised.

From a consumer/community perspective, bringing the consumer perspective to the board level was a privilege. Having a consumer involved at that level was an opportunity not previously allowed for within the state health services.

With this submission, I am focussing on standard 2 – consumer engagement and participation – can we see if there is improvement from prior to the Health Services Act 2015 to now? And, how did boards and the health services make effective space for inclusion of consumer representatives? The provision in the Act for a set number of clinicians is important, however the absence of a set number of consumer/community representatives is an opportunity missed to really embed positive change, and make genuinely effective meeting standard two compliance.



Independent Governance Review
Health Services Act 2016

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

It is my hope that in this review, in looking to any future plans for maintaining the governance process or in implementing something new – please consider embedding the requirement for consumer and community representation at the governance level.