



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The NSW Paediatric Cardiac Services Model of Care Panel (Panel) was established by NSW Health to develop a model of care that defines the delivery of high quality, effective and safe cardiac services for children and young people in New South Wales, reporting to the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN) Board.

The Panel, independently chaired by Professor Willis Marshall AC, Board Chair of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, included clinicians, consumers and senior representatives from metropolitan and rural local health districts and the SCHN.

Following the final Panel meeting, Professor Marshall presented the Board with a comprehensive draft **model of care, a detailed literature review and data analysis** undertaken by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS), and the **Panel recommendations**. RACS is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and New Zealand. The RACS review included analysis of data provided by SCHN, consideration of international evidence for cardiac services, and incorporated critique by three independent clinicians who specialise in paediatric cardiac care. This information, along with the individual views of the Panel, was considered by the Board.

Guided by its commitment to support SCHN to deliver high quality, safe care that places the needs of children and families first, the Board has determined the following:

- the model of care will be used as the framework to operationalise future service delivery
- the paediatric cardiac service should be delivered as one service by the SCHN, as one team, across the two hospital sites – The Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW) and Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick (SCH)
- paediatric cardiac services should be recognised as a state-wide service
- highest complexity cardiac surgery will only be performed at CHW, and lower complexity cases will be performed at both the SCH and CHW, with the appropriate supports in place

- the SCHN Executive and clinicians will work to determine the arrangements for medium complexity cases
- care provided should be seamless for all children accessing the service regardless of where they live
- robust data collection and analysis is required for the ongoing development of paediatric cardiac services to guide and shape any future models of care

The Board is committed to delivering a values based, networked cardiac service. Now is the time to move forward as one team and work together to overcome past challenges, focusing on what is best for children and families of NSW. It provides SCHN with a platform to broaden the depth and breadth of care it provides to children living with heart disease and the opportunity to contribute to the collection of high quality and comprehensive clinical outcome and experience data. The Executive will regularly report to the Board on implementation of this new model.

The Board will continue to support the SCHN Executive and clinicians to operationalise the model of care. This includes consideration of the cases to be performed at each site, to determine the best way to provide cardiac services to all children and their families across NSW. The SCHN will continue to work with the John Hunter Children's Hospital and rural Local Health Districts to support our patients and their families regardless of where they live and where they receive their care.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Professor Marshall and the Panel for undertaking this important work, and for their commitment and passion for paediatric cardiac care.

Elizabeth
