**Abstract summited for the 4th Rural Health and Research Congress**

**Armidale 4-6 November 2015**

**Congress Stream:** No 4Partnerships and integrated care – connecting rural people and services

**Alternate Stream:** No 1 Aboriginal health – Closing the Gap / opening connections

**Abstract Title:** Delivering an integrated system of care in Western New South Wales

**Author:** Scott McLachlan, Chief Executive of Western NSW Local Health District (‘WNSW LHD’)

**Background**

The Western NSW Integrated Care Partnership (‘the Partnership’) is transforming its rural and remote health system into an integrated system of care to improve access and health outcomes, with a particular focus on closing the Aboriginal health gap.

**Approach**

The Partnership is taking a whole-of-system approach to service integration including:

* Developing innovative models of care with a focus on risk stratification and GP-led multidisciplinary care teams
* Strengthening clinical leadership across primary and specialist care settings
* Shared service and care planning across local health organisations
* IT support to enhance clinical decision-making across care settings.

**Outcomes / Results**

Year one results of three-year program include:

* Establishment of district-wide program and project structures including locality based leadership structures and a district-wide clinical leadership committee
* Creation of a Health Intelligence Unit across the LHD and Western NSW Primary Health Network
* Establishment of five integrated care demonstration sites
* Progressing implementation of PCEHR across the district.

**Take Home Message**

1. The importance of establishing a clear vision and rational for change, and enlisting a coalition of support
2. Don’t underestimate the challenges and the time and effort required to deliver lasting change.

**Abstract (50 words)**

A Year One update on the Western NSW Integrated Care Strategy, which is transforming a rural and remote health system to improve access and health outcomes, with a particular focus on closing the Aboriginal health gap. It will summarise the challenges, issues, developments and early successes of the strategies implementation.