

## Announcement

### Zieco Skeldon appointed new Chief Executive Officer of Country and Outback Health (COBH)

The Board of COBH are pleased to announce the appointment of Zieco Skeldon as their new Chief Executive Officer.

Acting in the absence of John Gross, Board Director Craig Farrow said that the Board was “*looking forward to seeing Zieco take on this role and drive innovative change with a strategic focus on long-term growth.*”

Zieco has over 10 years of managerial experience in both the disability and mental health sectors. He has been part of COBH (and previously the Medicare Local) team for the past three years, commencing as the Assistant Manager Mental Health Programs before being promoted to the Manager Business Development and Community Programs. During that time, he accomplished the successful roll out of the Partners In Recovery Program across Country North SA Medicare Local’s service region. More recently, his team has led numerous successful tenders and grants that have positioned COBH well to respond to the future challenges that are arising out of significant sector reform.

Zieco has said “*I welcome the opportunity to take on the role of the CEO of COBH and would like to express my gratitude to the Board for the confidence they’ve shown in appointing me to this role. I am looking forward to working closely with the team to lead the organisation successfully into the future. I will make it a priority to form strong linkages and collaborations with key stakeholders in our country areas. It is important we unite to make the most of our resources in providing the best services to rural South Australians. Together with our partners, we aim to become a national leader in innovation and change that supports our goal of enabling healthier communities and promoting a mentally fit Australia.*”

COBH’s primary focus is the provision of mental health care, illness prevention, and support facilitation to a population of approximately 200,000 people across 765,000 sq. kms in north west country SA. Through the transfer of business from Country North SA Medicare Local in 2015, and prior to that, Divisions of General Practice, COBH has maintained a multi-disciplinary team of mental health clinicians with many years’ experience. It is the only community based clinical mental health service within the region.

COBH is currently contracted to provide over 16,000 occasions of service per annum through the delivery of multiple funded programs for mental health services, which include headspace Port Augusta, and Partners in Recovery, in addition to the delivery of private psychological services. COBH has a strong commitment to evidence-based care and ongoing improvement supported through work with tertiary providers such as Country SA Primary Health Network, Country Health SA, and Drug and Alcohol Services SA. COBH, with its Mentally Fit Australia philosophy and experience in offering services, is confident to introduce and lead new and innovative health reform putting it at the forefront of current service delivery.



Craig Farrow (Director)

**on behalf of the Board**

11<sup>th</sup> August 2016.