



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

May 2024 Meeting

This communiqué highlights key discussions of interest at the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Board meeting which was held at Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) on Monday 27 May 2024.

As part of this month's acknowledgement of traditional owners, Board member Dr Amanda Boudville acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. Dr Boudville reflected on a recent conference she attended in New Zealand and the way in which the Maori language was ingrained, particularly through each conference speaker introducing themselves in the traditional language. This prompted a lot of discussion amongst Dr Boudville and her colleagues at the distinct difference in New Zealand's cultural awareness in comparison to Australia.

In patient stories this month, Board members heard about the daughter of a patient at Peel Health Campus (PHC) who engaged with the Executive team to provide feedback around escalation processes when patients require urgent assistance. The Board acknowledged the PHC Executive team's focus on the patient's perspective and the positive learnings and outcomes that stemmed from this feedback. In another example of putting the patient first, the Board was also advised of a case managed by the SMHS revenue team in determining an overseas patient's insurance coverage prior to the hospital service admitting them. The Revenue team successfully liaised with the insurance provider in a timely manner to ensure the patient could access the treatment they required.



As A/Board Chair this month, I reflected on the privilege of attending the SMHS Sorry Day 2024 acknowledgement held at FSH, where we heard some valuable insight from guest speakers, Fred and Cindy, whilst enjoying some damper made by Ron Gidgup, FSH Coordinator Aboriginal Health Liaison. *Pictured left: Fred (fourth from left); Cindy (third from right); Members of the SMHS Aboriginal Health Strategy and FSH Aboriginal Health Liaison teams; Neil Doverty, Executive Director Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group (FSFHG) (second from left); Paul Forden, SMHS Chief Executive (second from right); Kim Gibson, A/Board Chair SMHS).*

Board member Karen Brown and I also attended long service awards presentations at FSH (pictured below) and Fremantle Hospital, celebrating staff who reached 10, 20, 30, 40 and even 50-year milestones during 2022 and 2023.



As well as celebrating our long-standing staff, this month we acknowledged our incredible volunteers during National Volunteer Week from 20-26 May, for the important role they play in improving patient and visitor experience across SMHS. We commend the passion, commitment and goodwill continuously demonstrated by more than 450 active volunteers at FSFHG and more than 170 active volunteers at Rockingham Peel Group.

The Chief Executive's report this month included updates on:

- Emergency and elective access across SMHS' sites.
- The progression of FSH Cockburn Clinic.
- The Murdoch medihotel.
- The rise in COVID cases and measures in place to continue to keep our patients and staff safe.
- Acknowledging the SMHS WA Nursing & Midwifery Awards 2024 winners. Pictured right (*clockwise from left*): *Dr Sara Bayes, Fiona Watson, Holly Green, and Biljana Vojnovic.*



Chairs and members of the Board Committees provided reports on the issues considered at their most recent meetings and highlighted specific items including:

- The Safety and Quality Committee received a presentation on a recent quality improvement project undertaken at Fremantle Hospital, the importance of the emergency access recovery program and considered regular safety and quality reports including clinical incidents, reviewed a report from a recent Board to Ward visit and received an update from the SMHS research team.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity, and staffing reports and reviewed contract management & procurement exception reports.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the lost time injury data, the risk register report, audit log, internal audit reports, integrity and ethics matters, as well as considering a risk management framework update and endorsed a draft internal audit plan for the coming financial year.



As the Djeran season progresses, the nights become cooler and damper along with some cool and rainy days. Traditionally, it was the time mia mias (houses or shelters) were made waterproof in readiness for the deep wintery months of Makuru to come.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 24 June 2024 at FSH.

Ms Kim Gibson
A/Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service
31 May 2024