



# SMHS Board Communiqué

*Excellent health care, every time*

## June 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 24 June 2024.



The meeting was held during the Noongar season of Makuru – the season of fertility. Makuru is June to July, known to be the coldest and wettest time of the year. Traditionally this was the time to move inland from the coast as the winds turned to the west and south. Makuru is also the time animals pair up in preparation for breeding in the coming season.

As part of this month's acknowledgement of traditional owners, Board member Colin Murphy acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. Colin reflected on the enduring difficulties traditional owners continued to confront in areas like Native Title and Land Rights and the responsibility we all have to support positive actions. Colin also thanked Board member Dr Ryan Atkinson for his contribution to the discussions which provided considerable insights that he was able to use in reflecting on the way SMHS can continue to recognise and engage with traditional owners.

In patient stories this month, Board members heard about a patient who passed away during a presentation to Rockingham General Hospital emergency department. The Board acknowledged the detailed analysis of the matter that was undertaken by the Area Executive Group and the opportunity to explore system wide improvements in the management of patients who have repeat emergency presentations.

SMHS Board members reviewed, discussed and approved the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) Progress Report for 2023-24. SMHS is committed to ensuring all members of the community can access its full range of services, facilities and information in a fair and equitable manner, including people with disability, their families and carers. To achieve this, the DAIP addresses barriers that could prevent the organisation from achieving the goal of providing equal opportunities for consumers and staff. The importance of community and consumer consultation in plans such as this one was noted.



As part of my Chair's report, I thanked outgoing Board member Dr Ryan Atkinson (pictured left) for his five years of service. Dr Atkinson has long been a strong advocate for improved clinical health outcomes for the Aboriginal population, and his contribution as a member of the Safety & Quality and People, Culture & Engagement Board Committees has been greatly appreciated by Board members and myself as Chair.

I also enjoyed attending the launch of the SMHS Doctors Support Unit (DSU) by the Minister for Health, the Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA on 20 June and was able to update the board on this important initiative. The DSU is a new, colocated partnership between clinical services, medical education and medical workforce teams to provide a seamless single point of contact and combination of resources and expertise to improve the workplace environment for our junior medical workforce. Following Minister Sanderson's address we were then taken on a tour of the simulation training unit.



*Pictured right, L-R: Adj. Assoc. Prof. Robyn Collins, SMHS Board Chair; Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, Minister for Health; and Dr Olivia Tan, President, Stanley Medical Officers Society.*

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 quality improvement presentation from Melissa Ting on Project IMPACTS (Improving Patient Access To Specialist care) for non-diabetic high risk foot patients, which was the overall winner at the 2024 SMHS IMPROVE conference. The Committee also considered the emergency access update, regular safety and quality reports including clinical incidents, reviewed its updated terms of reference, reviewed a report from a recent Board to Ward visit and received a quarterly update on strategic plan progress.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity, and staffing reports and reviewed contract management & procurement exception reports, considered the quarterly strategic plan progress and reviewed its updated terms of reference.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the risk register report, audit log, internal audit reports, integrity and ethics matters, strategic plan progress update, as well as endorsing its updated terms of reference and an integrity and ethics framework update.
- The People, Culture and Engagement Committee discussed the consumer advisory councils, received an update on junior doctor workforce, and considered the strategic plan progress update, communication achievements as well as patient experience and workforce matters.

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 success of the biannual SMHS Kaartdijin Innovation pitch panel with special guest panel member, the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Medical Research.



*L-R (front): Rehabilitation Medicine Consultant Fiona McHugh, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Medical Research; Paul Forden, SMHS Chief Executive; Professor Fiona Wood, Head of State Burns Service; and Josie Ford, Director Aboriginal Health Strategy with SMHS Innovation team members and clinicians.*

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 29 July 2024 at FSH.

**Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins  
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service  
28 June 2024**