



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

October 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 28 October 2024.



Board members acknowledged the meeting was held during the Noongar season of Kambarang – the season of birth. An abundance of colours and flowers cover the landscape. One of the most striking displays of flowers comes from the moodjar (Australian Christmas tree). Its bright orange and yellow flowers signal the heat is on its way.

At the beginning of the meeting, Board member Sue Le Souef acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. Sue reflected on the 12 months since the Voice referendum, and around the same time, her opportunity to meet with Sámi Indigenous people during her travel to Scandinavia. The Sámi people have their own parliament which represents and provides the Indigenous voice to the Scandinavian parliament. Sue noted that health outcomes for the Sámi people are exceptionally good compared to other Indigenous populations.

In patient stories this month, Board members listened to a presentation which showcased consumer input and a holistic, interdisciplinary approach around collaborative care of the older adult. Two education workshops have been facilitated in 2024 through the Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group, with the aim to embed these learnings as part of the curriculum in educating multidisciplinary groups on the needs of older adults.



In my Board Chair report, I reflected on the pleasure of attending the annual SMHS Excellence Awards, where SMHS projects, teams and individuals were recognised for going above and beyond in their everyday work. The award winners are champions amongst so many other impressive projects through which our hospitals, community and corporate teams work hard to improve patient care.

Clockwise from top left: Delivering the Board Chair address at the SMHS Excellence Awards; SMHS Deputy Board Chair, Ms Kim Gibson and Board members Ms Sue Le Souef, Dr Amanda Boudville and Mr Liam Roche; and awarding the Moorditj Dookoorniny Award to Mirko Hessel, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Rockingham Peel Group.





Also in my report, I acknowledged the successful WA Health Service Provider Innovation Showcase hosted by SMHS on 8 October, where I launched the SMHS HealthReady Pipeline (pictured left with Tim Leen, Executive Director Transformation; Dr Shirley Bowen, Director General Department of Health; and Mr Paul Forden, Chief Executive SMHS).

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

- The Murdoch Medihotel.
- Emergency and elective access across SMHS sites.
- FSH Cockburn Mental Health.

The Board Committee Chairs highlighted specific items considered at their most recent meetings:

- The Safety and Quality Committee heard about the FSH Dietetics team's Food Rescue project focused on reducing the amount of food wastage at FSH, which has resulted in all unused, untouched, portion-controlled shelf stable items now being repurposed within the catering system, and once a week all items are donated to food waste companies. The Committee also discussed Aboriginal Did Not Attend rates at outpatient clinics, reviewed an assurance report on the State Adults Burns Unit and noted the SMHS Research Report 2023.
- The People, Culture and Engagement Committee invited two junior doctors who are AMA site representatives at FSH to ascertain the current issues and determine how the Board can better support this important cohort of our workforce. The Committee also received quarterly project reports and a communications update.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the September financial performance reports, considered the contract management exception reports and received an update on strategic plan priority progress.
- The Audit and Risk Committee reflected on a work health and safety (WHS) walk they conducted at Fremantle Hospital on 14 October. Committee members also considered the quarterly WHS report, quarterly litigation schedule, integrity and ethics matters and received an update on the strategic plan priorities.

The SMHS Board to Ward 2024 program continued this month, when Deputy Board Chair Kim Gibson and Audit and Risk Committee Chair Colin Murphy (pictured right) undertook a Board to Ward visit at Rockingham General Hospital (RGH) on Allied Health Professionals Day, and assisted in delivering some treats to acknowledge RGH's hardworking members of the allied health team.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 25 November 2024 at FSH.

Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service
30 October 2024

