



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

April 2023 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 Thursday 27 April 2023.



Board members noted the meeting was held during the Noongar season of Djeran – the season of adulthood. Djeran is April to May, which is when the cooler weather begins. Cool nights once again bring a dewy presence to early mornings. The winds also change, especially in their intensity, with light breezes generally swinging

from southeast to southwest. As the season progresses, the nights become cooler along with some cool and rainy days. Noongar people traditionally acknowledge six seasons, which are indicated by changes in local weather, plants and animals.

At the beginning of the meeting, Board Chair Robyn Collins recognised the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. She reflected on the leadership demonstrated by the SMHS Board around the proposed First Nations Voice to Parliament and expressed how proud she was of the SMHS Board in demonstrating leadership in support of Aboriginal patients and colleagues. The final statement is included below again for reference:

As leaders of a health service provider, the Board of the South Metropolitan Health Service takes seriously our responsibility to undertake meaningful action on behalf of our Aboriginal patients and colleagues. The Board of the South Metropolitan Health Service endorses the Uluru Statement from the Heart and offers support in the referendum to recognise our First Nations people in the Constitution through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. We respect the referendum process and our organisation will seek to contribute positively by supporting informed public debate.

At each Board meeting, members consider patient stories to ensure the patient is always at the forefront of our considerations. This month, Board members discussed a patient story about the substantial work that goes into supporting patient safety when engineering testing is undertaken on a hospital site.



In the Board Chair's report, I reflected on a very positive [Board to Ward](#) visit I undertook recently with Board member Colin Murphy to the State Rehabilitation Unit, at Fiona Stanley Hospital. It was fantastic to meet staff, patients and families who spoke to us about their experience in hospital.

I also talked about a recent meeting the Chief Executive and I had with the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office team. They were very complimentary about the level of constructive engagement they have with SMHS.

SMHS Board members were delighted to have the opportunity to discuss environmental, social and governance (ESG) targets with Dr Emma-Leigh Synnot who is a medical practitioner at FSH as well as the medical lead for the Department of Health's Sustainability Unit. Dr Synnot provided insightful reflections on sustainability, climate change and ESG targets, acknowledging SMHS has done some great work in this area to date and there are enormous opportunities to have an impact, including in areas such as preventative health, care closer to home and innovation and research.

This month's Board meeting included reports and discussion on the 2023 SMHS Statement of Intent written in response to the Minister for Health's Statement of Expectations. Both of the documents can be read [here](#).

Board members discussed the recently drafted SMHS Board engagement plan. The SMHS Board believes in meaningful, proactive and transparent engagement with staff, key stakeholders, patients and families in order to support a strong culture of trust and understanding. Members acknowledged the significant amount of engagement already undertaken by the Board and agreed they look forward to building on that with other planned engagement activities.

The Chief Executive's report this month included:

- The [announcement](#) about the location for the new women's and babies hospital.
- Emergency and elective access across the SMHS' sites.
- The Peel Health Campus (PHC) transition and redevelopment project. PHC will transition to SMHS in August 2024.
- The roll out of the digital medical record at Rockingham General Hospital (RGH). This implementation means SMHS is the first health service provider in WA to have all sites with a digital medical record.
- The SMHS Research Strategy, which is due to be launched in late May.
- The Murdoch medihotel, which is expected to open in late 2023.
- The World Transplant Games and some of the SMHS patients who won medals at the games.
- Progress of the SMHS Biobank. You can read more about the Biobank [here](#).
- Progress of the SMHS 'Care to Lead' leadership program. It is expected that 300 staff will undertake the program in 2023.

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 discussed the importance of the emergency and elective access recovery program and regular safety and quality reports, including the consideration of clinical incidents.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity and staffing reports, reviewed contract management reports and risks, discussed ESG targets and welcomed a financial update from the executive directors of the Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group (FSFHG) and Rockingham Peel Group (RkPG). Members also heard about a recent visit by two of the members to the ICON Cancer Centre in Rockingham which provides services to RGH.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the PHC project update, monthly lost time injury data, the risk register report, audit log, internal audit reports, litigation schedule, integrity and ethics matters, ESG targets and the work health and safety report.

Board also members heard about the [Breaths and Beats charity bike ride](#) being held on 7 May, starting and finishing at FSH. 15 heart and lung transplant recipient teams will be riding in the inaugural 34km fundraising ride which will support vital research to improve the lives of people in the community with advanced heart and lung disease. This is being led by the Heart and Lung Research Institute of WA which includes clinicians from FSH.



The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 29 May 2023 at FSH.

Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service
2 May 2023