



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

July 2021 Meeting

This communiqué highlights key discussions of interest at the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Board's most recent monthly meeting, which was held on 26 July 2021 at Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH).

Prior to the Board meeting, members took part in a walking tour on Beeliam Boodja (at the FSH site) to better understand the land's cultural significance for Noongar people. The Board was escorted by members of the SMHS Aboriginal Health Strategy team and Board members were interested to learn that the area has significant heritage value to Noongar people due to its connection to the chain of wetlands and lakes which once stretched from the Moore River to the Peel Inlet. The FSH Noongar Art and Cultural Guide can be found [here](#). Pictured below left is Wardan-Noorn which draws inspiration from the cultural practice of fishing for eels and other freshwater fish. Pictured below right is Balga Mia Mia – steel sculptures inspired by Balga bush, designed by local high school students and produced by prisoners as part of their rehabilitation. Both are areas of sanctuary for peace and reflection located near the hospital.



Each month, at the start of the meetings, we ask one of the Board members to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and to include a personal reflection. This month, Liam Roche reflected on the need for everyone to increase their knowledge of the history of Indigenous Australians. Liam recently attended a screening of the film [Wadjemup - Black Prison, White Playground](#) at FSH as part of NAIDOC week. The film chronicles the history of Rottnest Island and its past use as a prison and forced labour camp for Aboriginal men and boys. Liam further reflected that as part of his recent cultural safety training, he had watched an SBS series called [First Australians](#) which he recommended to other Board members.



During the meeting break, Board members took the time to acknowledge and celebrate the four members of FSH staff who had received their 40 year long service awards in 2021; Sandra Denison, Nurse Unit Manager, Lindsay Jones, Enrolled Nurse, Gail Hammond, Clinical Midwife and Karen O'Shea, Anaesthetic Technician (*Karen, Sandra and Lindsay are pictured left.*)

Two patient stories were discussed including one about the disruptive effect on patients and staff when non-urgent surgeries were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Hearing and reflecting upon patient stories and experiences is a top priority for Board members at each of the Board meetings.

The SMHS Board received and discussed in detail the quarterly progress report on the [SMHS Strategic Plan 2021-25](#). There are 20 strategic priorities for the 2021-25 period; 13 of which commenced in 2021. This meeting focused on the current projects being undertaken to drive meaningful change across SMHS for the benefit of the community including:

- Implementation of a clinical excellence unit
- Empowering our people to be innovative in safety improvement
- Implementation of a community membership scheme
- Delivering an outpatient reform program
- Educating patients to improve outcomes for surgery
- Development of an organisational development framework
- Development of a SMHS leadership development program
- Implementation of an equity, diversity and inclusion program
- Exploration of twinning opportunities
- Strengthening engagement with primary care and non-government organisations
- Collaboration with schools
- Reduction of the impact the organisation has on the environment
- The establishment of a research and development biobank.

The meeting also included regular Board reports and discussion of the following items:

- A review of the monthly SMHS Board Dashboard – which assists the Board to monitor key indicators that have been discussed at committee-level.
- A review of the Board Committees' Terms of Reference. Terms of reference are reviewed and approved annually by the Board.
- Consideration of the Draft SMHS Statement of Intent, which is provided to the Minister for Health in response to the annual Minister's Statement of Expectation. You can read previous Statements of Expectation and Intent [here](#).

The Chief Executive's report this month highlighted several important programs including:

- The community COVID-19 vaccination hub in Kwinana, which is run by SMHS' staff. SMHS continues to reiterate the importance of vaccination to healthcare staff.
- Finalisation of the SMHS Interim Service Agreement 2021-22.
- Transfer of FSH facilities management staff to SMHS.
- Commencement of the SMHS Future Leaders program.
- The filming of a documentary in the FSH children's Emergency Department.

The Chairs 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 SMHS Safety and Quality dashboard and monthly reports as well as the SMHS Assurance Report – Your Safety in Our Hands 2020 which considers SMHS' performance against the wider WA Health system.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity and staffing reports and reviewed the contract management reports, including the new WA Procurement rules.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the SMHS Audit Log, corporate risks and work health and safety reports.

As part of my monthly report, I acknowledged the excellent work done by the SMHS Aboriginal Strategy team in organising the recent NAIDOC week activities across the SMHS sites and the cultural walking tour which took place prior to the meeting.

SMHS Board meetings are held monthly at all major sites across SMHS.

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

30 July 2021