



# SMHS Board Communiqué

*Excellent health care, every time*

## October 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 25 October 2021 at Rockingham General Hospital (RGH).

Board members always appreciate the opportunity to visit sites across SMHS, meet staff and see new initiatives designed to improve our service. As part of this month's meeting, the Board was pleased to visit the Aged Care Rehabilitation Ward at RGH (right) and discuss with staff the falls prevention strategies being implemented on the ward.

Rockingham General Hospital is a 200-bed hospital with a busy ED and a range of inpatient and outpatient services. The Rockingham Peel Group (RkPG) also includes Murray Districts Hospital, Mandurah Community Health Centre, Kwinana Community Health, Rockingham Community Mental Health Service and the Peel Community Health Service.



The Board received a presentation from Jen McGrath, the Mental Health Commissioner, in relation to mental health services across SMHS, and a number of other whole-of-health initiatives including the Infant, Child and Adolescent Taskforce, a community treatment and emergency response roadmap and the redevelopment of the Graylands Hospital site.



During the meeting, the Board and the RkPG Executive celebrated five members of the Rockingham Peel Group staff who had received their 40-year long service awards this year (four are pictured left with me and Chief Executive Paul Forden). I was delighted and proud to be able to talk about the achievements of the five staff members over the past 40 years and after the formalities, everyone enjoyed a delicious morning tea provided by the talented catering team at RGH.

As part of my Chair's report, I congratulated the SMHS safety superstars who were acknowledged at the Work Health and Safety Recognition Awards, which I, and other members of the Board, attended on 11 October. As in previous years, there was a great turn out and some excellent nominations.

This month's Board meeting 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.
- Two patient stories including one about the collaboration between SMHS Contract Management and a specialty service at Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group to negotiate the terms of a contract for a new treatment which has benefits for patients who may have exhausted traditional treatment options.
- A SMHS Strategic Plan quarterly update. The strategic plan is a living document and regular review and monitoring is necessary as it allows for the identification and evaluation of internal and external factors impacting on SMHS' strategic priorities.

The Chief Executive's report this month included the following updates:

- The current status of the COVID-19 staff vaccination program.
- Opening of additional beds at Fremantle Hospital.
- The recruitment of 334 graduate nurses and midwives across SMHS as well as additional experienced nurses who will be commencing at SMHS in November.
- Progress being made on the Peel Health Campus redevelopment project.
- The implementation of Aishwaraya's CARE call across SMHS' emergency departments (EDs) which includes waiting room nurses who will become a visible 24/7 presence in all large EDs by 31 October 2021. One of the roles of the waiting room nurse will be to speak with patients, carers and families in ED and inform them, amongst other care requirements, about the Aishwarya's CARE Call process.
- Work in the sustainability area which includes Fiona Stanley Hospital becoming a pilot site to measure baseline greenhouse gas emissions using the Global Green Healthy Hospitals Climate Impact Check-up tool. As part of the SMHS Sustainability Action Plan, focus groups have been formed to assess staff attitudes to and understanding of environmental sustainability across SMHS.

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 roll out of the PROTECT program across SMHS mental health services which is an evidence-based program aimed at improving the overall standard and consistency of care provided to patients at risk of suicide. The Committee's report also included safety and quality monitoring and reporting matters, including the SMHS Safety and Quality dashboard.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity and staffing reports and reviewed contract management reports as well as a comprehensive SMHS Strategic Asset Plan which considers ongoing funding requirements.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the SMHS Audit Log, corporate risks and work health and safety reports.

SMHS Board meetings are held monthly at all major sites across SMHS. The next regular meeting of the SMHS Board is scheduled for Monday 22 November 2021 at Fiona Stanley Hospital.

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

27 October 2021