



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

February 2022 Meeting

This Communiqué highlights key discussions of interest at the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Board's Board meeting which was held on 28 February 2022 at Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH).

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge those living in or impacted by the crisis in Ukraine and indeed those affected by the floods in Queensland and New South Wales, particularly any members of our staff with family and friends affected. Both situations are devastating for those involved and our thoughts go out to them.

At the start of each meeting, one Board member is asked to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet. This month, David Rowe talked about the [2021 Backing Black Business](#) report which exposed the barriers Indigenous businesses and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entrepreneurs face when accessing financial products and services.

Patient stories are always a highlight for Board members as it allows them to maintain a patient focus and hear about both positive stories and ones where there have been learnings. One of the stories this month was about the new virtual fracture clinic which has been established at FSH in the past year. The Advanced Scope Physiotherapist within the team recently identified a vulnerable patient at risk of a poor outcome due to their age, co-morbidities and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background. They arranged for the 'Consider Home Over Inpatient Care Every time (CHOICE)



team to be involved with the patient and the CHOICE team were able to visit the patient at home and provide additional support. This was a great example of collaboration between teams which not only kept a vulnerable patient out of hospital but also provided the patient and their family with a better overall experience and care.

As part of my Chair's report, I once again thanked the Chief Executive, the SMHS Executive team and indeed all staff for their work to date planning for the COVID surge and for their leadership and resilience in very challenging circumstances. I also acknowledged Professor Paul Norman who was recently named as a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours. The award is a fitting recognition for Professor Norman's distinguished service to vascular surgery, clinical research and training.

This month's Board meeting included Board reports and discussion of the following items:

- The WA Health Governance Review – the SMHS Board and Executive met with the expert panel appointed by the Minister for Health to provide advice on the efficiency and effectiveness of the current WA health system governance framework.
- Quarterly reporting against the Minister for Health's Statement of Expectations 2021. You can read the Minister's [Statement of Expectations](#) on our website here and the responding [SMHS Statement of Intent](#).

- Approval of important updated Board governance documents – the SMHS Board Charter and the SMHS Board Manual.

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

- An extensive update on the management of COVID-19, including the reduction of elective surgery and the opening of additional beds.
- Peel Health Campus transition, including the expression of interest process for the development of a co-located private hospital and engagement activities with staff currently working at the hospital.
- Thanks and acknowledgement of the staff working at Rockingham General Hospital following the recent bushfire in East Rockingham which caused a threat to the hospital.
- Healthy Green Hospitals – SMHS is the first healthcare organisation in WA to sign the Health Care Climate Challenge and Pledge, which is an initiative of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Network, intended to mobilise hospitals and health systems globally to take a leadership role to address climate change.

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 safety and quality monthly reports as well as considering the actions undertaken in response to the 2021 Independent Inquiry into Perth Children's Hospital.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity and staffing reports, reviewed contract management reports and considered the procurement of electricity for the FSH site.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the SMHS Audit Log, corporate risks, internal audits and the monthly work health and safety dashboard.
- The People, Culture and Engagement Committee considered the communications, workforce and patient experience dashboards as well as discussing the 2021 Your Voice in Health survey. An update was also provided to Committee members about the way in which feedback is managed via the Care Opinion platform.

Board Committees are considered the 'engine room' of the Board so SMHS Board members reflected on the effectiveness of the four Board Committees listed above. Each year, Committee Chairs undertake a survey designed to ensure that the Committees are meeting all the objectives set out in the relevant terms of reference. This is to provide the Board assurance that the Committees have the right structure and composition and are working efficiently and effectively to support the Board and the broader organisation.

The next regular meeting of the SMHS Board is scheduled for Monday 28 March 2022.

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

7 March 2022