



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

February 2023 Meeting

This communiqué highlights key discussions of interest at the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Board meeting which was held at Murray District Hospital on Monday 27 February 2023.



Murray District Hospital offers inpatient medical services and palliative care to the people of Pinjarra and surrounding areas. A co-located health centre also provides medical imaging, GP services and a range of community health services. Board members enjoyed speaking to staff and having a look at the facilities, including the lovely gardens that patients at the hospital enjoy.

Board members noted the meeting was being held during the Noongar season of Bunuru – the season of adolescence. Bunuru is February to March, which

is the hottest time of the year with little or no rain. Hot easterly winds continue with a cooling sea breeze most afternoons along the coast. Bunuru is the time of the white flowers, with white flowering gums such as jarrah, marri and ghost gums in full bloom. Noongar people traditionally acknowledge six seasons, which are indicated by the changes in local weather, plants and animals.

As part of this month’s acknowledgement of traditional owners, Board member Kim Gibson recognised the Binjareb people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. Kim reflected on a recent visit to Norway, where she had learned more about the Indigenous Sami people and Norway’s work to establish a Sami voice in Parliament. Norway’s Sami people have similar health outcomes to other Norwegian people and the Sami people have good access to housing, health care and education. Following Kim’s reflection, Board member Sue Le Souef provided Board with an update on an event she had recently attended about why the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#) and the upcoming referendum on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people Voice to Parliament are national governance issues. Significant discussion followed about the Voice to Parliament and the importance of supporting Aboriginal staff and patients.



In the Board Chair’s report, I formally welcomed the newly appointed Area Director Clinical Services to SMHS, Dr Mark Monaghan, who attended the Board meeting. I reflected on my attendance at the WA Nursing and Midwifery Awards 2022 that took place on 25 February and congratulated Fiona Chisholm, SMHS Nurse from the Rottneest Island Nursing Post who won the Excellence in Primary, Public and Community Care award. Many heartfelt congratulations once again Fiona from all South Metropolitan Board members!

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 three stories including one about an elderly overseas visitor who had received outstanding care from Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH). He particularly complimented FSH on its “*amazing staff*” and the friendships he built during his stay. The SMHS Board considers both stories that reflect learning opportunities and compliments where patients and their families have received excellent care.

This month’s Board meeting included reports and discussion on the following items:

- An update on the SMHS Strategic Plan 2021-25. The goals within the Strategic Plan are monitored by the SMHS Board committees and reports are provided to the Board by the committee chairs.
- Quarterly reporting against the latest Minister for Health’s Statement of Expectations. You can read the Minister’s [Statement of Expectations](#) on our website here and the responding [SMHS Statement of Intent](#).
- The Peel Health Campus (PHC) transition to SMHS in August 2024 and extension to the current contractual arrangements.

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

- Emergency and elective access across the SMHS’ sites.
- Elective surgery waiting times and the work being done to reduce these waiting times for patients.
- The Murdoch Medihotel, which is being built adjacent to the FSH site in Murdoch and is due to open in 2023.
- Cyber security and the work being done to reduce the risk to SMHS, including the implementation of mandatory cyber security training for all staff.

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 emergency and elective access recovery program, the WA Health Safety and Quality Strategy and regular safety and quality reports, including the consideration of clinical incidents. The Safety and Quality Committee and the People, Culture and Engagement Committee both noted they were being held on the 15th anniversary of the first [National Apology Day](#) when then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd publicly apologised to the Stolen Generations.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity and staffing reports, reviewed contract management reports and risks and approved the PHC services agreement.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the PHC project update, monthly lost time injury data, the risk register report, audit log, internal audits, litigation schedule, integrity and ethics matters, the work health and safety report and cyber security measures.
- The People, Culture and Engagement Committee discussed staff and consumer engagement opportunities, the SMHS Equity Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2021-25 progress report, communication achievements as well as patient experience and workforce matters.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 27 March 2023 at FSH.

Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service
6 March 2023