



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

May 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 Monday 29 May 2023.

At the beginning of the meeting, Board member Liam Roche acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and recognised their continuing connection to the land on which the Board was meeting. Liam spoke about Wiradjuri man and ABC journalist Stan Grant’s recent coverage of the coronation of King Charles III and his deeply moving 2015 speech on racism and the Australian dream. Liam reflected on the importance of respectful conversation around important matters like racism.



I also spoke about Board members meeting [Professor Tom Calma AO](#) at the recent Australasian College of Health Service Managers’ event. Prof. Calma is an Aboriginal Australian human rights and social justice campaigner and 2023 senior Australian of the year.

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 story about a patient who was part of a clinical trial at FSH and as a result of the close supervision of their case, additional health issues were discovered and treated quickly and effectively.

In the Board Chair’s report, Board Chair Robyn Collins reflected on the recent launch of the inaugural [SMHS Research Strategy](#). This vital strategy outlines how SMHS will continue our clinical trials and research to provide the latest treatments and evidence-based care to our patients between 2023 and 2033. *Pictured right: Prof. Merrilee Needham, SMHS medical lead for research, Minister Dawson, Minister for Medical Research, Adj. Assoc. Prof. Robyn Collins, SMHS Board Chair, Paul Forden, SMHS Chief Executive, Melanie Wright, SMHS Head of Research and Tim Leen, SMHS Executive Director Transformation.*



The Board Chair acknowledged the valuable contribution made by SMHS’ volunteers in light of the recent National Volunteers’ Week and spoke about the opening of new beds at Fremantle Hospital which she attended with the former Premier, Minister for Health and Chief Executive (see photos below). The Board Chair also mentioned the excellent [podcast on environmental sustainability](#) recently published by SMHS.

SMHS Board members discussed environmental, social and governance (ESG) targets as well as the [SMHS Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2023-26](#) which was published ahead of World Environment Day 2023. Board members discussed the importance in monitoring and measuring change as well as celebrating and communicating wins. It was agreed that ESG should be everyone's business and making change is important for both existing patients and staff as well as future staff.

This month's Board meeting included a progress update and discussion on the [2021-25 SMHS Strategic Plan](#). The goals within the Strategic Plan are monitored by the SMHS Board committees and reports are provided to the Board by the committee chairs.

The Chief Executive's report this month included:

- Emergency and elective access across the SMHS' sites, including the development of the WA Virtual Emergency Department (WAVED). Significant focus is being given to reducing waiting lists for elective surgery.
- The Peel Health Campus (PHC) transition and redevelopment project. PHC will transition to SMHS in August 2024.
- An update on the recent issues with mould at PHC and the outstanding work by SMHS hospitals to support patients and help maintain services.
- 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 Murdoch medihotel, which is expected to open in late 2023.
- An update on a recent pitch panel, when five SMHS' teams pitched their innovative ideas, and the support being given by the SMHS Innovation team to tech start ups to trial their ideas in a health care environment.
- The Breaths and Beats charity bike ride which was held on 7 May 2023 and raised more than \$250,000 for transplant research. The 34km bike ride saw 15 FSH heart and lung transplant recipients take part.

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 and reviewed contract management reports and risks.
- 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 and the recent Office of the Auditor General report on air handling and water systems.
- The People, Culture and Engagement Committee discussed staff and consumer engagement opportunities, the SMHS Disability 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 26 June 2023 at FSH.

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. Noongar people traditionally acknowledge six seasons, indicated by changes in local weather, plants and animals.



Kim Gibson
A/Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service
6 June 2023

