



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

April 2024 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 April 2024.



Djeran sees a break in the really hot weather associated with the preceding Bunuru season. Cool nights once again bring a dewy presence to the early mornings. It is a time of red flowers, especially the red flowering gum and the smaller and more petite flowers of the summer flame.

As part of this month’s acknowledgement of traditional owners, Board member Dr Ryan Atkinson acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. Dr Atkinson reflected on the Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners of the land surrounding and including the Yarra river in Victoria, and the role of the Birrarung Council, the statutory body that advocates for this land to the Victorian Government. While the positive native title determination has created more diversity, generated employment and provides an ongoing source of revenue, the complexities of navigating modern governance processes and merging these with traditional methods were acknowledged. This reflection prompted the Board to further consider where SMHS may be able to improve as an organisation in this space.

The SMHS Compassionate Care awards are in their third year and are held during Patient Experience week from 29 April to 3 May. The SMHS Safety, Quality & Consumer Engagement team calls on employees and patients to nominate staff who have delivered compassionate care, encompassing the SMHS values of Care, Integrity, Respect, Excellence and Teamwork. A panel of consumers and staff, including SMHS Board member Ms Yvonne Parnell, shortlisted 30 staff members who received an inaugural badge at the site-based presentations.



All Board members enjoyed attending the awards at FSH during a break in the Board meeting. Later in the week, Board member Sue Le Souef attended the Fremantle award ceremony and Ms Parnell attended both Fremantle and Rockingham General Hospital (RGH) events. *Pictured above: Adj. Assoc. Prof. Robyn Collins, SMHS Board Chair; Dr Maxine Wardrop, Executive Director Safety, Quality and Consumer Engagement SMHS; Mr Paul Forden, SMHS Chief Executive and FSH award winners.*



Pictured left: Dr Wardrop; Ms Yvonne Parnell, SMHS Board member (fifth from left); Ms Kath Smith, Executive Director Rockingham Peel Group (fifth from right) and RGH award winners.

In patient stories this month, Board members heard about a complaint received by FSH from the wife and daughter of a deceased patient, regarding the lack of time and attention provided by nursing staff once the patient had been deemed palliative. The nurse director and the nurse unit manager used the opportunity to develop a plan for further educating staff around the quality of care provided to palliative patients and their families, and this is continuing to be implemented in the ward. The Board reflected on the importance of compassionate care and support for palliative patients and their families, and ensuring dignity is maintained during these challenging times.



The Board welcomed Ms Kellie Blyth, Executive Director Peel Health Campus (PHC) (pictured left) who provided a detailed transition project update and reflected on the positive green-amber rating received at the past two Gateway reviews.

The Chief Executive's report this month included updates on:

- Emergency and elective access across SMHS' sites.
- The progression of FSH Cockburn Clinic.
- FSH car parking, including the [Minister's call for expressions of interest](#) for the design and construction of a new multi-level car park at FSH
- Celebrating the eight finalists from SMHS in the WA Nursing & Midwifery Excellence Awards 2024.

In the Board Chair's report, I reflected on attending recent stakeholder meetings, and thanked members for representing the Board at recent and upcoming SMHS events.

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 access recovery program and considered regular safety and quality reports including clinical incidents, and reviewed reports from several recent Board to Ward visits.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity, and staffing reports, reviewed contract management reports and risks and endorsed a contract extension of term.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the lost time injury data, the risk register report, audit log, internal audit reports and integrity and ethics matters, the quarterly work health safety reporting and litigation schedule.
- The People, Culture and Engagement Committee invited members of the Consumer Advisory Councils and Consumer Advisory Groups to join a round table discussion and share ideas on how SMHS and the Board can improve visibility for consumer engagement groups across the organisation. The Committee found this discussion to be extremely valuable and insightful.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 27 May 2024 at FSH.

Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service
3 May 2024