



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

July 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 July 2024.

As part of this month's acknowledgement of traditional owners, Board member Julian Henderson acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. Julian noted that out of the 460 Australian athletes at the 2024 Olympics, 11 Indigenous Australians were representing the country in eight sports. Cathy Freeman was featured in promotions for the Paris Olympics and Julian observed that the world sporting lens does not differentiate between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians; an important reminder in how the wider community should view our nation and its people.



As part of my Chair's report, I was pleased to welcome Dr Stephanie Trust, who has been formally appointed as a SMHS Board member. Dr Trust is a proud Gija/Walmajarri woman and is the Principal GP and Clinical Director Wunan Health & Wellbeing Centre, Wunan Foundation in Kununurra. Dr Trust has significant expertise and experience in remote primary health care, Aboriginal health and chronic disease management, and we look forward to her contribution to the SMHS Board.

I also acknowledged the Board's involvement in NAIDOC Week celebrations at FSH on 15 July, where we took part in a cleansing smoking ceremony (*pictured right*), flag raising (*pictured far right, Deputy Board Chair Kim Gibson raising the Australian flag*), and watched a traditional dance (*pictured below*).



Following the ceremony, Board and Executive attended a cultural awareness session led by Danny Ford, Kamarang Institute. Board members agreed this was an extremely valuable exercise in cultural awareness and are working with the Executive in progressing tangible outcomes to Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud.

In patient stories this month, Board received a presentation from Dr Wei-Sen Lam, Head of Medical Oncology FSH and Ms Hannah Whiting, Manager Service Planning SMHS regarding a patient who was treated for a very rare form of cancer.

After receiving unsuccessful treatment elsewhere, the patient was contacted by a cancer nurse coordinator who provided more information and guidance on all the treatment options available both privately and publicly. Following the advice, the patient elected to undergo radiopeptide therapy at FSH. This treatment is a highly targeted and effective therapy only offered through FSH's oncology service for those who require such specialised intervention. The therapy ultimately was successful in treating the patient's rare cancer.

The Board acknowledged the highly specialised cancer services available at FSH and the dedicated health professionals who are experts in their field and are always committed to finding the best option for the patient. It was also noted how integral the cancer nurse coordinator role is in supporting patients through their cancer journey; another valuable demonstration of putting the patient first.

The Board Committee Chairs provided reports on the issues considered at their most recent meetings and highlighted specific items including:

- The Safety and Quality Committee received a quality improvement presentation relating to implementing Digital Journey Boards at Rockingham Peel Group Mental Health, which aimed to improve clinician access to up to date (live) patient information, reduce duplication of information, improve clinical handover and save time. The Committee also considered the emergency access update, regular safety and quality reports including clinical incidents.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity and staffing reports, endorsed the SMHS annual financial estimates 2024-25 and reviewed contract management & procurement reports.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the risk register report, audit log, internal audit reports, integrity and ethics matters, quarterly work health and safety matters and noted a number of reports released by the Office of the Auditor General.

Also in July, Board member Julian Henderson represented the Board at the second instalment of the Fiona Wood Public Lecture series for 2024, where FSH hepatologist Dr Koya Ayonrinde presented on fatty liver disease. The lecture series was attended by 120 people; the second highest attendance of the series to date. (Pictured below: Julian Henderson and Dr Ayonrinde with lecture attendees)



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

- The Peel Health Campus transition and the final Gateway review with a green rating.
- The progression towards commissioning FSH Cockburn Health.
- Emergency and elective access across SMHS' sites.
- The Murdoch Medihotel.



The meeting was held during the Noongar season of Makuru – the season of fertility. As waterways and catchments started to fill, people moved about their country with ease. Food sources changed from sea and freshwater foods to land grazing animals such as the yongka (kangaroo).

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 26 August 2024 at FSH.

Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service
1 August 2024