



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

January 2025 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 20 January 2025.



After the dry of the Kambarang season, Birak sees the rains ease and the warm weather really start to take hold. During this season fledgling birds venture out of their nests, though some still stay close to their parents. Reptiles prepare to shed their old skin for a new one. As temperatures continue to rise in the lead up to the Bunuru season, baby frogs complete their transformation into adulthood.

At the beginning of the meeting, Board member Liam Roche acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. Liam shared his experience of attending his grandchildren's school assembly, where they sang the second verse of the national anthem in Noongar language and signed it in Auslan. The Board agreed it is refreshing and heartwarming to see this acknowledgement as part of the school's general procedures, and that hopefully this acknowledgement becomes second nature for the younger generation as they grow.

In patient stories this month, Board members heard about the work that has gone into implementing a 2022 accreditation recommendation for shared decision making and adopting the 'what matters to you?' process for patients. The Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group (FSFHG) established a working group in July 2024 and a new form was produced with a focus on patient and family, the patient's preferences and what matters to them. The new approach has had engagement across all of Fremantle Hospital wards and is looking to be implemented at other SMHS sites. Board members acknowledged this is important work and are looking forward to further updates from Executive in this space.

In the A/Chief Executive's report, Neil Doverty provided updates on:

- Emergency and elective access across SMHS sites.
- FSH Cockburn Mental Health.
- Murdoch Medihotel.

The A/Chief Executive also noted the efforts of the FSH Rottnest Island nursing post staff who were among the first responders to the recent sea plane accident. The Board echoed the sentiment in acknowledging these staff members.



In my Chair report, I thanked Julian Henderson for representing the Board at the Rockingham Peel Group Long Service Awards ceremony in January 2025 (*Julian is pictured left with Ms Kath Smith, Executive Director RkPG and award recipients*).

There were 79 staff recognised for a combined 1000 years of service accumulated over the last 30 years; a truly commendable achievement.

I also acknowledged Board members' involvement in the Christmas events across SMHS throughout December 2024, which is always a busy but rewarding time of year.

Pictured below, clockwise from top left: Adj. Assoc. Prof. Robyn Collins, SMHS Board Chair with PHC staff at their Christmas BBQ and decorating judging awards ceremony; Board member Karen Brown at RGH Christmas decorating judging and visiting staff in one of the wards; and Deputy Board Chair Kim Gibson with FSH staff at the Christmas BBQ.



The Board Committee Chairs highlighted specific items considered at their December 2024 meetings:

- The Safety and Quality Committee received a presentation on the multidisciplinary team collaboration for HACs prevention. The Committee also received a number of quarterly project service reports, reviewed an assurance report on the statewide blood and bone marrow transplant program and noted the SMHS Consumer involvement in Research Framework.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the November financial performance reports, considered the contract management exception reports and approved a service agreement between SMHS and the Department of Health for medical interns 2024-2027.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the audit log, risk register and integrity and ethics updates. The Committee also received and reviewed a drug management internal audit report and an IIA-Australia external quality assessment 2024 final report for SMHS.
- The People, Culture and Engagement Committee reviewed a draft Aboriginal health dashboard, received patient experience dashboards and the workforce dashboard for the first quarter of 2024/25, and reviewed the SMHS Diversity and Inclusiveness in Recruitment internal audit report.

The next Board meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 24 February 2025 at FSH.

Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service
24 January 2025