



# SMHS Board Communiqué

*Excellent health care, every time*

## March 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 31 March 2025.

At the beginning of the meeting, Board member Colin Murphy acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. Colin reflected on the recently published Closing the Gap report, which indicated only 4 of 19 targets are on track. The Board noted the sobering statistics, and reflected on the efforts SMHS is making in the Aboriginal health space to effect positive change.

In patient stories this month, Board members learned about the Community Physiotherapy Service (CPS) WAPHA GP linkage project, whereby two social work positions have been trialled within the CPS model of care. Employing social workers within the CPS is facilitating timely assessment, intervention, and management of psychosocial concerns.

This month, there were several farewell events held to acknowledge SMHS executive members who have moved on from their roles.



I attended Paul Forden's staff farewell (pictured top left with Paul and Neil Doverty, A/Chief Executive), where we celebrated the many and significant contributions Paul made to SMHS.

Maxine Wardrop, Executive Director Safety Quality & Consumer Engagement) and Kath Smith, Executive Director Rockingham Peel Group both recently announced their retirement, and Board members acknowledged their tenure in WA Health and the legacies they leave behind. *Pictured top right: Maxine and Board members gathered together on 23 March. Pictured left: I acknowledged Kath during the SMHS Board meeting on 31 March.*

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

- SMHS 2025 workplan priority areas, including access and demand; financial sustainability; and elective and outpatient recovery and reform.
- Peel Health Campus redevelopment.

In my Chair report, I updated members on my initial conversation with the new Health Minister. I also noted that SMHS hosted Minister Hammat, Minister Carey and their teams to FSH on Wednesday 2 April for a guided tour of some of SMHS' key service areas.

I enjoyed attending the SMHS International Women's Day Research forum on 6 March, where several top researchers from FSFHG shared personal stories and insights. On 17 March, Yvonne Parnell and I also attended a workshop for the Twinning project between SMHS, Singapore Health and SNMC Agra India to determine the future aims and direction of these partnerships.

The Board Committee Chairs highlighted specific items considered at their March 2025 meetings:

- The Safety and Quality Committee received a quality improvement presentation on improving the quality of clinical handover on FSH ward 6A. The Committee also received project service report updates and reviewed the regular safety and quality performance indicators.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the February financial performance reports, considered the quarterly contract management report.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the audit log, risk register and integrity and ethics updates.



Bunuru is the time of the white flowers, with white flowering gums such as jarrah, marri and ghost gums in full bloom.

Another striking flower is the female zamia. As the hot, dry weather continues, the seeds on its cones begin to ripen, changing from green to bright red. This makes them more attractive to animals, particularly the wetj (emu).

The next Board meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 28 April 2025 at FSH.

**Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins**  
**Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service**  
**7 April 2025**