



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

May 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 26 May 2025.

At the beginning of the meeting, Board member Mr Julian Henderson acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. The Board acknowledged it was National Sorry Day, as well as the start of National Reconciliation Week. Julian reflected on the contributions of choirs across the country who were singing *Solid Rock* by Goanna, as part of the Voices of Reconciliation, and shared some of the lyrics which demonstrate the song's continued poignancy and relevance, more than 40 years after its release.

Also as part of National Reconciliation Week, we welcomed Dr Andy Redfern to the Board meeting, who presented his research into addressing poor Aboriginal cancer outcomes. Aboriginal health has been an area of focus for the Board's Safety and Quality Committee this year, and the Board appreciated Dr Redfern sharing the team's findings from recent studies.

Board members reflected on a positive patient story at the meeting, which included feedback from the wife of a patient who was brought into FSH emergency department after suffering from a pulmonary embolism. The praise of all staff involved and the compassion, warmth and humour they displayed was heartening to receive. The Board acknowledged it is a reminder of the patient-centred care focus that underpins everything we do as a health service provider.



Julian Henderson and I attended the Fremantle Hospital long service awards in May (pictured left). During my Chair report at the meeting, I commended the A/Chief Executive on his speech at the awards and the importance of acknowledging staff for their efforts.

Also in May, Board members Ms Karen Brown and Dr Amanda Boudville undertook a Board to Ward visit at Fremantle Hospital, visiting the theatres and endoscopy unit (pictured below right).

The Board Committee Chairs shared updates on items considered at their May 2025 meetings:

- The Safety and Quality Committee received a quality improvement presentation on reducing time between discharge and contact with the Cardiovascular Rehabilitation Service for patients with acute coronary syndrome. The Committee also reviewed Aboriginal health key indicators, received two quarterly project service reports, a Board to Ward report and considered the regular safety and quality performance indicators.



- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the April financial performance reports, endorsed a novation of lease to progress to the Board and considered the contract management procurement and exception reports.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered an internal audit paper regarding the Institute of Internal Auditors Australia report and discussed their recent Work Health and Safety Walk through the Murdoch Medihotel (pictured right). Regular items including the audit log, risk register and integrity and ethics updates were also discussed.



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

- SMHS 2025 workplan priority areas, including access and demand and capacity optimisation; financial sustainability; and elective and outpatient recovery and reform;
- Recent visits to SMHS sites by Nicole O'Keefe, Assistant Director General, Strategy and Governance to discuss aged care bed availability.



As the season progresses, the nights become cooler and damper along with some cool and rainy days. Traditionally, it was the time mia mias (houses or shelters) were made waterproof in readiness for the deep wintery months of Makuru to come.

The next Board meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 30 June 2025 at FSH.

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

4 June 2025