

# SMHS Board Communiqué

*Excellent health care, every time*

## March 2026 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 30 March 2026.

Dr Stephanie Trust provided an Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting, recognising their enduring connection to land, sea and waterways. Dr Trust shared her knowledge of Liyan (wellbeing), which is the philosophy that weaves people, culture and country together, and is often embedded in connection to patients in the regions.

The Board received two patient stories this month; the first relating to a fundraising effort by the daughter of a former psychiatric patient, who was so moved by the care her father received, that she swam more than 238 kilometres over three weeks to raise \$10,000 for the Integrated Therapy Service at Fremantle Hospital.

The second patient story related to a young patient who presented to FSH emergency department suffering from critical anaphylaxis, and was resuscitated and stabilised by calm and confident ED clinicians. Three of the four doctors involved had undertaken specific training and education that was fundamental to this patient's outcome. The Board noted the direct impact of workforce education and system capability on safer care and effective flow in critical moments.



On 24 March 2026, I was proud to attend the formal opening of the SMHS Older Adult Health Hub, the first to be opened for WA Health (*pictured left with SMHS Clinical Services Planning staff and Neil Doverty, SMHS Chief Executive [far right]*). The hub is located within the Cockburn Health and Community Facility alongside general practice, pathology, medical imaging, and other community services, making it easier for older people to access the care they need.

I was also delighted to attend the Board Development Day hosted by the Department of Health, which brought together members of all the WA Health Service Provider Boards to share our experiences and hear from the Minister for Health, the Hon Meredith Hammat MLA, Director General Dr Shirley Bowen and other esteemed colleagues.

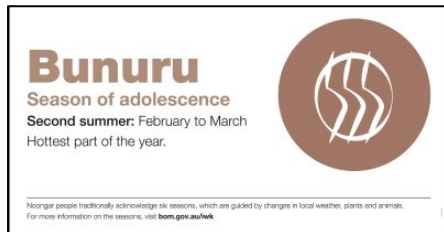
The Board Committee Chairs shared updates on items considered at their March 2026 meetings:

- The Safety and Quality Committee members and other Board members attended an informative presentation on Making Data Count, by Samantha Riley of the NHS. During the meeting, the Committee also reviewed quarterly project reports, a recent Board to Ward visit report and quarterly Safety and Quality Indicator Set reports for maternity and mental health.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed a contract management procurement and exception report, reviewed the financial performance for February 2026 and endorsed the progression of a service agreement.

- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the litigation schedule, integrity and ethics report, audit log and risk register for February 2026 and received a completed internal audit report and a procurement assurance review report.

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

- SMHS Improvement Method progress
- SMHS Winter strategy
- SMHS Quality Improvement celebration ceremony
- Upcoming SMHS Excellence Awards 2026.



A striking flower of the Bunuru season 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 upcoming Djeran season will offer a much-needed break from the hot weather.

The next Board meeting will take place on Tuesday 28 April 2026 at FSH.

**Mr Liam Roche**  
**Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service**

7 April 2026