

SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

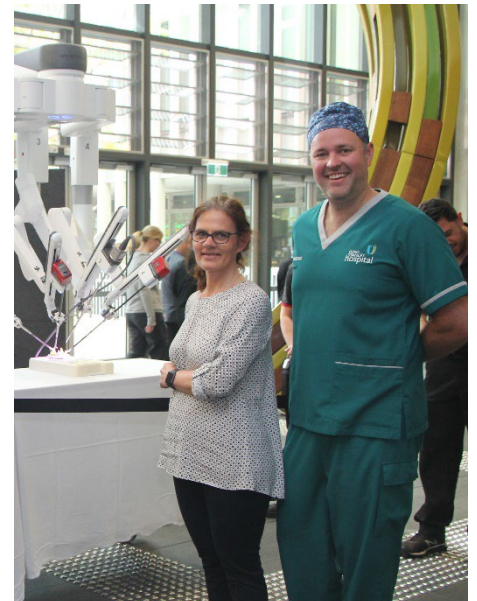
November 2021 Meeting

This Communiqué highlights key discussions of interest at the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Board's final Board meeting of the year, which was held on 22 November 2021 at Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH).

One of the highlights of the Board meeting was a presentation from Mr Matthew Brown, Consultant Surgeon and Director of Robotics, and Erica Botha, Clinical Nurse Consultant, about robotic assisted surgery in Urology at SMHS.

Mr Brown highlighted the work being done to treat patients with prostate cancer using the da Vinci robot, in particular celebrating the higher number of patients they were able to treat, with a reduction in time spent in hospital along with lower complication rates and other outstanding patient safety and quality outcomes being achieved.

With rates of prostate cancer growing and being significantly higher in some areas of WA than the national average, Board members were impressed with the innovations and future potential outlined by Mr Brown. *(Pictured right are Mr Brown and Ms Botha with the da Vinci robot at a community open day at FSH in 2018)*



The Board also received a presentation from the Hon. Jim McGinty, Chair of the Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Taskforce about the work of the Taskforce over the past 10 months. The Taskforce is responsible for the planning and development of services to meet the needs of people in WA living with a mental illness, including a comprehensive review of facilities at Graylands Hospital and Selby Older Adult Mental Health facility. There is a high demand for mental health services in the South Metropolitan area and across WA and SMHS Board members were encouraged to hear about the positive work being done. SMHS has committed to providing support and advice to the Taskforce now and into the future as new models of care are developed.

As part of my Chair's report, I provided an update on the actions being undertaken following the Board evaluation earlier in the year. This included a discussion about professional development, which is so important for continuous improvement.

I also invited the SMHS Executive team and others to join the Board for a discussion about climate change. It is important that the Board shows leadership in this critical issue and that SMHS continues to be at the forefront of best practice in sustainability.

This month's Board meeting included regular Board reports and discussion of the following items:

- An annual summary of the FSH facilities management services contract – to provide the Board with a high-level overview of key areas of the contract for 2020-21.
- Quarterly reporting against the 2021 Ministerial Statement of Expectation, which can be read on the SMHS website [here](#).
- Work continuing to ensure that SMHS is fully prepared to manage COVID-19 when the state and international borders open in 2022.

The Chief Executive's report this month included the following updates:

- The current status of the COVID-19 staff vaccination program.
- Opening of additional beds and associated staffing across SMHS.
- Installation of the Mako system for orthopaedic surgery at Fremantle Hospital. This is a first for a WA public hospital and you can read more [here](#) and below.
- The development of the SMHS organisational development framework and an update on the Care to Lead leadership development program.
- The Chief Executive's appointment to the Australian National Phenome Board.

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

- The Safety and Quality Committee discussed the roll out of the PROTECT program across SMHS mental health services, which is an evidence-based program aimed at improving the overall standard and consistency of care provided to patients at risk of suicide. The Committee's report also included safety and quality monitoring and reporting matters, including the Safety and Quality dashboard.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity and staffing reports and reviewed contract management reports as well as additional bed capacity and the implementation of the WA Procurement Rules which have recently been changed.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the SMHS Audit Log, corporate risks, internal audits and the monthly work health and safety dashboard.
- The People, Culture and Engagement Committee considered the communications, workforce and patient experience dashboards as well as discussing the SMHS Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan. Committee members were presented with a short video developed to encourage staff to use a 'teachback' approach when communicating with patients, which was well received.



Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee, Liam Roche, also provided an update about a recent visit of the Committee to linen supplier Linen Services Australia. Liam and other Committee members found the visit to be very positive and were particularly impressed with Linen Services Australia's focus on sustainable practices.

SMHS Board meetings are held monthly at all major sites across SMHS. The next regular meeting of the SMHS Board is scheduled for Monday 24 January 2022 at FSH.

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

24 November 2021

Further information on robotic surgery at SMHS

The da Vinci robot at FSH

FSH was the first public hospital in WA to offer robotic urological surgery after taking delivery of a da Vinci surgical system in 2018, focusing mainly on suitable patients requiring prostate and kidney surgery. Three years on and the use of the Da Vinci has since been expanded and now includes upper gastrointestinal surgery.

The system makes FSH one of only seven public hospitals in Australia with this capability. The da Vinci system provides the surgeon with 3D vision, magnification and enhanced dexterity to manipulate and dissect areas where access is challenging or limited.

The Mako robot at Fremantle Hospital

The Mako SmartRobotics system, based at Fremantle Hospital, uses a CT scan to create a 3D image of the patient's unique anatomy which can be manipulated to assist the surgeon to plan surgery.

In performing the surgery, the robot guides the surgeon as they perform the cuts with enhanced accuracy and includes technology which guides the surgeon and limits the possibility of damaging other structures during surgery.

