



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

January 2022 Meeting

This Communiqué highlights key discussions of interest at the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Board's Board meeting which was held on 24 January 2022 at Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH).



The Board reflected on and discussed the SMHS Board to Ward program overview for 2021. Through the Board to Ward program, Board members conduct conversations with staff, patients and their families in relation to the care provided and received. This is part of the Board and SMHS' commitment to service improvement and the safety and quality of services. Hearing first-hand examples of successes, concerns and issues enables Board members to engage on services being provided at the various SMHS sites.

[You can read the Board to Ward program overview for 2021 on the SMHS website here.](#)

As part of my Chair's report, I provided an update on the review of the WA Health governance recently announced by the Minister for Health and I reflected on the outstanding event held at SMHS to mark the International Day of People with Disabilities. I also provided an update for Board members on the recent visit of the Minister for Health, Minister Sanderson, to FSH, where she visited the emergency department, intensive care unit, family birthing centre, the acute medical unit ward and spoke to staff across all areas. The Minister was understandably impressed with everything that she saw and is looking forward to seeing our other SMHS hospitals and services in due course.

In addition, I spoke about the Care to Lead graduation event that Deputy Board Chair Kim Gibson and I attended in December. The Care to Lead program is an immersive program for leaders across SMHS which encourages individual growth for first time leaders and supports the development of leadership skills. The course consisted of four one-day workshops featuring a blend of theory, application and exposure to senior leaders across the organisation. Kim and I enjoyed talking to the graduates and hearing about how valuable they had found the course. Pictured below are the 2021 graduates.



Board members always reflect on patient stories at the start of each meeting to ensure that the organisation continues to be patient and consumer focused. This month the Board heard about a patient who was referred to be part of a clinical trial as part of their treatment. As a result of being part of the study, an unrelated clinical issue was uncovered, and the patient was reviewed by an integrated clinical research unit collaborating with other researchers from other specialties. This collaboration not only led to the best possible outcome for the patient but ultimately saved their life.

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

- A quarterly update on the SMHS Strategic Plan for 2021-2025. Achievements in the last quarter include a sustained increase of virtual outpatient appointments; continued development of the *My Surgery Journey Diary* pilot; vocational training placements for years 11 and 12 students at FSH and Fremantle Hospital; and sourcing and replacing single use plastic items with sustainable options, removing almost 1.5 million items from landfill.
- The annual update of Board governance documents including the Board Governance Map.

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

- An extensive update on the work taking place to ensure SMHS' hospitals and services are fully prepared to manage COVID-19 over the coming months. Board members reiterated their thanks and support for the SMHS executive team and staff across the organisation.
- Opening of additional beds and associated staffing across SMHS.
- Staff engagement around the transition of Peel Health Campus to SMHS in August 2023.
- Providing staffing support to country hospitals as part of a WA Health partnership approach.
- Recently awarded funding for emergency department innovation projects.
- Advice on recruitment of executive roles currently underway.

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 safety and quality monthly reports as well as the Board to Ward engagement plan for 2022.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity and staffing reports and reviewed contract management reports as well as a Peel Health Campus transition update. Board members were delighted to hear that SMHS achieved best practice recognition by the Office of the Auditor General in the Western Australian Auditor General's Report 2020-21 for the second year in a row.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the SMHS Audit Log, corporate risks, internal audits and the monthly work health and safety dashboard.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate two of my SMHS Board colleagues on recent appointments. Yvonne Parnell has been appointed by the Federal Minister of Health to the Principal Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Committee and Kim Gibson has been reappointed as the Chair of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia. These two appointments reflect the high calibre of people who form the SMHS Board.

SMHS Board meetings are held monthly at all major sites across SMHS. The next regular meeting of the SMHS Board is scheduled for Monday 28 February 2022.

Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins
Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service Board
31 January 2022