



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

April 2022 Meeting

This Communiqué highlights key discussions of interest at the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Board's Board meeting which was held on Thursday 28 April 2022 with me as the Chair present on the Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) site and other members in virtual attendance via Teams.



Board members noted that the Board meeting was being held during the Noongar season of Djeran – the season of adulthood. Djeran is April to May, which sees a break in the really hot weather, with cool nights and the winds change to light breezes from southerly directions. As the season progresses, the nights become cooler and more damp with some cool and rainy days. Noongar people traditionally acknowledge six seasons, which are guided by the land. The six seasons are indicated by the changes in local weather, plants and animals.



**Autumn:
April–May**

Ant season.

Time to repair housing
and shelter.

Each month, a Board member is asked to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the Board meets and this month, Yvonne Parnell shared a piece of work that she has been involved in – [the Yogazeit program with the Ngaanyatjarra Lands schools](#). The program is a culturally-relevant mindful movement education pilot project that has been undertaken in classrooms and on country.

SMHS Board members discussed the annual review and update of the [SMHS Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#). Clear progress has been made in the delivery and implementation of the 13 strategic priorities commenced at the start of 2021. One strategic priority was identified as being completed as is now considered to be 'business as usual' (Implement an equity, diversity and inclusion plan) and five strategic priorities were added for 2022. Board members were particularly interested to hear more about the impacts the work was having on patients and the local community. Successes include:



- Uptake of video appointments across SMHS now accounts for one in every five virtual appointments or one in 11 appointments overall.
- New 'first in WA' initiative piloting in FSH Immunology – GPs with their patients access specialist immunology advice in-real-time and on-demand (real-time referral) resulting in zero waiting time for these referrals.
- New initiative piloting in Orthopaedics – FSH and Rockingham General Hospital (RGH) patients presenting to the emergency department (ED) with simple muscular-skeletal injuries are diverted to an on-demand outpatient clinic, easing pressure on EDs and attending to patients sooner.
- The outcome of a SMHS led interagency forum in March 2021 that focussed on preventing mental health crisis in the Peel region, has been the establishment of the Peel Mental Health Taskforce to provide a

systematic way for organisations to work together to coordinate and improve mental health service delivery in the Peel region.

- In 2021, SMHS product liaison officers sourced and replaced single-use plastic items with sustainable options in line with phase 1 of WA Plan for Plastics. As a result, almost 1.5 million plastic items will now no longer go to landfill.

As part of my Chair's report, I discussed the WA Health Independent Governance Review which is underway. The panel are currently seeking input through submissions and a survey for this important piece of work. I also discussed planning for Board meetings for the rest of the year. Board members are looking forward to getting out to the other SMHS hospitals and seeing our services in action later in the year when restrictions on hospital sites have further eased.

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

- An extensive update on the management of COVID-19, including additional beds, staffing, elective surgery and restrictions at hospital sites.
- Work being done to support doctors in training across SMHS, including around rosters, recruitment and retention, teaching and training and wellbeing.
- Peel Health Campus transition, including the development of a co-located private hospital and engagement activities with staff currently working at the hospital.
- The significant focus on long stay patients to ensure that patients are being cared for in the most appropriate place for their needs.



CE Paul Forden with the GGHH Health Care Climate Challenge and Pledge

The CE also shared an update from an environmental sustainability forum hosted by the Australian Medical Association (AMA) that he attended in April. The SMHS CE attends this forum each time it is held and is proud to champion the excellent work being done by SMHS in environmental sustainability. Achievements in SMHS environmental sustainability since late 2021 include signing the Health Care Climate Challenge and Pledge. SMHS is the first healthcare organisation in WA to sign this initiative of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Network, intended to mobilise hospitals and health systems globally to take a leadership role to address climate change.

Chairs and members 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 dashboard as well as SAC1s of concern and the upcoming accreditation of SMHS facilities against the National Safety Quality Health Service Standards (NSQHSS) and the National Standards for Mental Health Services. The Committee members also discussed the [Board to Ward program](#) schedule for the remainder of 2022.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity and staffing reports, reviewed contract management reports and the annual RiskCover insurance premium.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the SMHS Audit Log, corporate risks, internal audits and discussed the plans for the 2022/23 internal audit program. The Committee members also received an excellent presentation from the SMHS Work Health and Safety team about the recent changes to the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (WA)* which came into effect on 31 March 2022.

The next regular meeting of the SMHS Board is scheduled for Monday 23 May 2022.

Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins
Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service Board
2 May 2022