



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

May 2022 Meeting

This Communiqué highlights key discussions of interest at the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Board's Board meeting which was held on Monday 23 May 2022 via Teams.

Each month, a Board member is asked to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the Board meets and this month, Liam Roche read a poem from NSW poet Jonathan Hill who is of Indigenous Filipino and Australian heritage, born in Goulburn. Liam also reflected on the incoming Federal Government's commitment to support the [Uluru Statement of the Heart](#). Board members spoke about [National Reconciliation Week](#), from 27 May to 3 June, and this year's theme of *Be Brave, Make Change*.

One of the two patient stories discussed at Board this month was about the Living Donor Exchange Program. A person in WA was able to indirectly donate their kidney to their partner through this program even though they weren't a perfect match for each other. One received a kidney from a living donor in Victoria and the other donated their kidney to a young person also in Victoria. The donor reflected on how rewarding the process had been, enabling more than one person suffering from renal failure to experience a greater quality of life. The Board was not only impressed with the incredible service provided by the transplantation team at Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) but also by the complex logistics that go into making the Living Donor Exchange Program a success.



SMHS Board members reviewed, discussed and approved the new Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) for 2022-2027 as well as the DAIP Progress Report for 2021-22. SMHS is committed to ensuring all members of the community can access its full range of services, facilities and information in a fair and equitable manner, including people with disability, their families and carers. To achieve this, the DAIP addresses barriers that could prevent the organisation from achieving the goal of providing equal opportunities for consumers and staff. The importance of community and consumer

consultation in plans such as this one was noted. *Pictured above are the attendees at the SMHS event held to celebrate International Day of People with a Disability in December 2021.*

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

- The WA Health Independent Governance Review – SMHS has provided a submission to the expert panel appointed by the Minister for Health to provide advice on the efficiency and effectiveness of the current WA health system governance framework.
- Quarterly reporting against the Minister for Health's Statement of Expectations 2021. You can read the Minister's [Statement of Expectations](#) on our website here and the responding [SMHS Statement of Intent](#).
- The Board's annual review of the register of personal interests and conflicts of interest. Members provide details of any real or perceived conflicts of interest to the Board Chair and SMHS Integrity and Ethics team as they arise but a review is undertaken of the register once a year to ensure its accuracy.
- The upcoming Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group (FSFHG) accreditation survey against the National Safety Quality Health Service Standards and the National Standards for Mental Health Services. The Executive Director FSFHG provided an update on the positive work that is being done to prepare the organisation for this important survey.

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

- An extensive update on the continued management of COVID-19, including additional beds, staffing, elective surgery and the management of long stay patients.
- Information on the recent Budget handed down by the Premier, including investment announcements on health infrastructure and emergency care: [\\$1.6 billion in health infrastructure spending to deliver key projects](#) and [New \\$252 million reform package to improve WA emergency care](#).
- The continued development towards the election commitment of a mental health emergency centre (MHEC) for Rockingham General Hospital (RGH). The proposed facility is likely to be a combined ten bed unit comprising eight MHEC beds and two behaviour assessment unit beds.
- An update on the SMHS Innovation Roadshow planned to take place on Tuesday 19 July 2022. For the first time, the Innovation team will be showcasing the transformative projects within SMHS from the last few years.
- A reflection on the internal screening of a new documentary about the emergency departments at FSH and Perth Children's Hospital. This documentary has already aired in the UK and will be aired on Channel 9 from June this year. It is a wonderful celebration of the exemplary services we provide.

As part of my Chair's report, I reflected on [National Volunteer Week](#) that had taken place the week before the Board meeting and the important contribution made by our volunteers across SMHS. Board members expressed a desire to personally thank and recognise volunteers across SMHS so we will be seeking ways to attend sites in the coming months to say thank you. *Pictured right are two of our valued volunteers at RGH.*



And speaking of saying thanks, it was my absolute privilege to be able to say a sincere thank you to SMHS staff this week for continually going above and beyond, particularly at a time when demand for services has never been higher coupled with the challenges of furloughed staff. Board members and I are so grateful for the tireless dedication shown by SMHS staff across all our sites and services.

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 indicators as well as serious incidents of concern and the upcoming accreditation against the National Safety Quality Health Service Standards and the National Standards for Mental Health Services.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity and staffing reports, reviewed contract management reports and the six-monthly Medical Equipment Condition Report.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the SMHS Audit Log, corporate risks, internal audits, plans for the 2022/23 internal audit program and discussed SMHS Board Safety walkarounds for 2022/23.
- The People, Culture and Engagement Committee discussed the quarterly workforce dashboard, the corporate communications dashboard report, the patient experience dashboard, as well as the DAIP and accreditation mentioned above.

You will often hear or have needs of thanks for going above and beyond. And often your response to such thanks is to just offer up to:

As a staff member – the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Board members and Executive team – when you know in fact there are no adequate words to thank you for all that you have done and continue to do in this challenging time.

Working in healthcare is rewarding, but far from easy. It is challenging. There is a constant and increasing demand for our services, with increasing budgets and increasing complexity.

If you are on the frontline – attending to patients, working in isolation and taking health care, supporting patients in their homes, or dealing with people in emergency situations – it is your ability and the patients see and feel the value of compassion that you have. We say thank you.

If you are making sure behind the scenes contributions – from sanitation, cleaning and catering, to security, maintenance, administration and corporate roles – your support often goes unrecognised. We say thank you.

To all staff who support you in your dedication and tireless efforts, we say thank you. We are deeply grateful. We don't know what we and our patients would do without you.

You are the reason that despite staffing challenges we are still able to provide direct and compassionate care. You are the reason that in a quarter of our SMHS population can continue to receive quality care with minimal disruption. Thank you for the reason we say thank you.

We really need all 11,000 plus SMHS staff in terms of our thanks for going above and beyond in this time, so please pass this message on to those that don't have complete access to print and put it in a message on our website.

Each of you deserves recognition for always staying – no matter the circumstances – to deliver excellent health care, every day.

Rael Turton
Chief Executive
South Metropolitan Health Service

Robyn Collins
Board Chair
South Metropolitan Health Service

Nel Downey
Executive Director
Perth District Hospital
Hospitality Group

Kath Smith
Executive Director
Rockingham Health Group

Yvonne Gatt
Executive Director
Clinical Services Group
and Inpatient Unit

South Metropolitan Health Service Board members and Executive team



The next regular meeting of the SMHS Board is scheduled for Monday 27 June 2022.

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



The Board meeting was held during the Noongar season of Djeran – the season of adulthood from April to May, which sees a break in the hot weather. Noongar people traditionally acknowledge six seasons, which are guided by the land and changes in local weather, plants and animals.