



# SMHS Board Communiqué

*Excellent health care, every time*

## October 2022 Meeting

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



Board members noted the Board meeting was being held during the Noongar season of Kambarang – the season of birth. Kambarang is October to November, which is a time of longer dry periods accompanied by a warming trend. During Kambarang, there is an abundance of colour with flowers in bloom, snakes and reptiles wake from

hibernation and young birds sing out for their parents to feed them. Noongar people traditionally acknowledge six seasons, which are indicated by the changes in local weather, plants and animals.

Each month, a Board member is asked to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the Board meets. As part of his reflection, Board member Colin Murphy considered his recent trip to Uluru in the Northern Territory. Colin appreciated the rich cultural learnings afforded to him through this trip. As a former head of justice services in Western Australia and a foster carer for 25 years, Colin recognises the challenges faced by indigenous communities in Australia but said that his visit to Uluru highlighted much cause for hope and celebration as well as acknowledging the issues.



In the Board Chair's report, I acknowledged the SMHS Excellence Awards which were held on Thursday 20 October 2022. This was an outstanding opportunity to celebrate our health service's amazing teams and individuals who demonstrate compassion, empathy and understanding when caring for our patients, each and every day. I was proud to be able to name Nola Naylor, Director Aboriginal Health Strategy, and Anthony Collier, Rockingham Peel Group's Mental Health Service Co-Director, as joint recipients of the SMHS Board Award. For more information about the awards and the very worthy winners, you can read the Excellence Awards page on our website: [South Metropolitan Health Service -](#)

[SMHS Excellence Awards](#). I am pictured above at the awards with SMHS Chief Executive Paul Forden and worthy winners of the Excellence in Strengthening Partnerships award, the Voluntary Assisted Dying Statewide Care Navigator Service team.

Within the Board Chair's report, I also highlighted the Staff Work Health and Safety Awards held on 6 October 2022 and upcoming SMHS Research Showcase and Board Risk Workshop taking place in November. The SMHS Work Health and Safety recognition program has been running since 2019 and it was my absolute pleasure, on behalf of Board, to acknowledge and thank staff for their initiatives, efforts and motivation to ensure that SMHS workplaces are safe for everyone.



At each Board meeting, members consider patient stories to ensure that the patient is always at the forefront of our considerations. This month's patient stories included ['John's story'](#), shown at FSH induction events to highlight the importance of compassionate care.

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

- The Peel Health Campus transition to SMHS from August 2023. The project will also see the redevelopment of the existing public hospital and a new private hospital built to be co-located with PHC.
- The updated SMHS Board Code of Conduct as part of the bi-annual review of the document.
- Premier's Circular 2022/02: State Government Boards and Committees. The new guidelines detail the standard principles and processes for classifying State Government Boards and Committees and appointing Board members in WA.

Board members also welcomed the Director General of WA Health, Dr David Russell-Weisz, for a discussion about strategic matters, priorities and challenges.

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

- Ongoing work being done to ease the pressure on hospital emergency departments and improve access to elective surgery. This includes the development of the high intensity user service at FSH, which aims to support those people attending the emergency department on a frequent basis.
- The continued management of COVID-19 including the recent closure of the COVID testing clinic at Rockingham General Hospital (RGH) and the ending of mandatory isolation.
- The Murdoch Medihotel, which is being built adjacent to the FSH site in Murdoch and is due to open in 2023.
- An update on the Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group (FSFHG) recent accreditation against the national standards by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. The FSFHG Executive ensured rigorous measures were in place to meet the national standards.
- The opening of the new respiratory ward and ophthalmology unit at Fremantle Hospital (FH). The newly designed and built ophthalmology unit at FH opened on 20 September 2022. With up to 180 outpatients through its doors every day, ophthalmology is one of the busiest outpatient services at FH.
- The importance of cyber security and the recent change to make cyber security training mandatory for all SMHS staff.
- Further expansion of a SMHS-wide campaign on the reduction of hospital acquired infections.
- Recruitment of SMHS Executive members, including the appointment of Bryan Cook to the role of Executive Director Contract Management and the recruitment to the position of Area Director Clinical Services.
- The recently published [2021-22 SMHS Annual Report](#).

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 emergency and elective access recovery program, FSFHG accreditation final assessment report and regular safety and quality reports.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity and staffing reports, reviewed contract management reports, approved a business case and approved a contract award and contract extension.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the Peel Health Campus project update, monthly lost time injury data, the risk register report, audit log, internal audits, litigation schedule and integrity and ethics matters.

The next regular meeting of the SMHS Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 28 November 2022 at Fiona Stanley Hospital.

**Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins**  
**Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service**  
**25 October 2022**