



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

November 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 28 November 2022.

As part of this month's acknowledgement of traditional owners, Board member Julian Henderson provided respectful recognition of the Wadjuk people of the Noongar lands and committed to doing what he could to create equity and drive improvement for the original inhabitants of the land on which the Board meets. Julian also mentioned the inspirational [Boyer lectures](#) delivered recently via podcast by Noel Pearson that reference Australia's indigenous peoples, in particular the Voice to Parliament, indigenous identity and economic development.



In the Board Chair's report, I acknowledged the recent Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospital Group's (FSFHG) Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards, held on 9 November 2022, which I was privileged to attend. I am pictured left at the awards with SMHS Area Director Nursing and Midwifery Ged Williams and worthy winners of the awards – Roman Gebreyes, AIN of the Year, Anne Watts, Excellence in Leadership & Nurse of the Year, Tori White, Graduate of the Year, Glenn Yepes, Excellence in Clinical Practice. (not pictured Lauren Hardwick, Preceptor of the Year).

I also attended the FSFHG Medical Awards on 23 November. These awards recognise consultants, registrars, resident medical officers and interns who have made a significant contribution within the hospital group. It was great to hear about the very worthy winners and runners up.

Within the Board Chair's report, I also highlighted the [Spinnaker Awards](#) which were held at the Walyalup Civic Centre in Fremantle on 22 November. The Hon. Simon Millman MLA also attended the awards and was so impressed that [he mentioned the excellent research culture at SMHS the following day in Parliament](#).

Excellence in research was a theme this month with SMHS hosting its research showcase on 9 November, finishing with a gala event where the SMHS Chief Executive Paul Forden and I launched the new SMHS Biobank. The SMHS Biobank is partnering with PathWest and the WA DNA Biobank at the University of WA to develop streamlined workflows and governance to collect, process, track and store samples for research.

At each Board meeting, members consider patient stories to ensure that the patient is always at the forefront of our considerations. This month, the Board heard from the Clinical Nurse Consultant who leads the FSH Assessment Liaison Escalation Response Team (ALERT) which has been in place for 10 months. The team proactively detects patient deterioration early, responds to code blue activations across campus, as well as reviewing code blue patients to prevent repeated deterioration. ICU discharges are also reviewed and monitored. ALERT empowers ward staff by providing them with support from critical care trained nurses and medical staff. The team provides an outstanding service and Board appreciated hearing about the care they are providing for patients and support given to staff.



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

- The Peel Health Campus transition to SMHS from August 2024. 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 independent review of WA Health system governance report](#) published in October 2022. The Board considered the recommendations within the report and the impact on SMHS.
- An update on the SMHS Strategic Plan 2021-25. The goals within the Strategic Plan are monitored by the SMHS Board committees and reports are provided to the Board by the committee chairs.
- Quarterly reporting against the latest Minister for Health's Statement of Expectations. You can read the Minister's [Statement of Expectations](#) on our website here and the responding [SMHS Statement of Intent](#).

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

- Emergency and elective access across the SMHS' sites. Whilst some improvements have been made, there is still significant work to be done.
- The continued management of COVID-19 – SMHS has implemented all the changes in direction issued by the Government and Chief Health Officer in recent weeks.
- The Murdoch Medihotel, which is being built adjacent to the FSH site in Murdoch and is due to open in 2023.
- The SMHS Care to Lead program - There are currently four intakes of the Care to Lead program underway, due to complete in December 2022. Participants are developing their leadership skills through a blended learning model focused on practical models, tools and strategies to strengthen their individual leadership approach. Planning is underway for the expansion of Care to Lead to 12 cohorts for 2023.

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 FSFHG accreditation, the roll out of the PARROT model to help staff respond to paediatric deterioration, the emergency and elective access recovery program and regular safety and quality reports, including the consideration of clinical incidents.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity and staffing reports, reviewed contract management reports, including on the FSH facilities management contract, approved a contract award and approved the signing of two lease documents.
- 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 Board also reflected on the annual Board risk workshop which was held on 21 November.
- The People, Culture and Engagement Committee discussed the SMHS Equity Diversity and Inclusion Plan, staff engagement, communication achievements as well as patient experience and workforce matters. The Board also endorsed the SMHS Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Report 2021-22.



Finally, I wish to thank all those who attended the Perth Pride Parade on 27 November on behalf of SMHS. Those dancing on the SMHS float, including the Chief Executive and several Board members, reported that it was an outstanding night where all attending felt safe, relaxed and enjoyed celebrating SMHS and LGBTQIA+ inclusion. Attendees also enjoyed spending time with the Minister for Health: Mental Health, the Hon Amber Jade Sanderson MLA, who joined the Pride Parade.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 30 January 2023 at FSH.

Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service
4 December 2022



This Board meeting was 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.