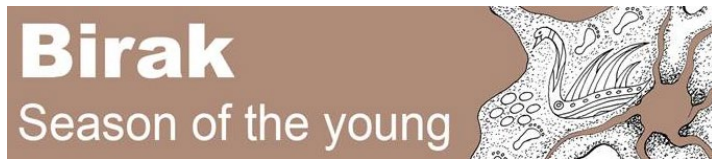


SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

January 2023 Meeting

This communiqué highlights key discussions of interest at the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Board meeting which was held at Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) on Monday 30 January 2023.



Board members noted the meeting was being held during the Noongar season of Birak – the season of the young. Birak is December to January, which is a time when the rains ease and the weather warms up. During Birak, the afternoons are cooled by the sea breezes from the southwest, fledglings are venturing out of nests and reptiles are ready to shed their old skin. Noongar people traditionally acknowledge six seasons, which are indicated by the changes in local weather, plants and animals.

As part of this month’s acknowledgement of traditional owners, Board member Karen Brown recognised the Wadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. Karen reflected what a privilege it is to see rock and wall art on country in the Pilbara and the Kimberley but also pleasing to see how sought-after Indigenous artwork is today, recognised both culturally and commercially. She considered the longevity of WA’s First Nations people and the importance of the conversation Australia is about to have as a nation in relation to the First Nations Voice to Parliament. Karen said it is essential all Australians take part in a respectful debate and hopes that First Nations people are given the recognition and voice they should have at a national level.

In the Board Chair’s report, I reflected on two events I attended in December to celebrate and recognise the volunteers from Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group (FSFHG) and Rockingham Peel Group (RkPG). Pictured right are some of the incredible volunteers from FSFHG who received their long service awards. Between them, they had volunteered 265 years of service!



Within the Chair’s report, I also highlighted the SMHS Care to Lead program which held a graduation event in December and I discussed the [Independent Review of WA Health System Governance](#), which was released for further consultation in October 2022.



The SMHS Board was delighted to welcome Dr Deanna Lee to present to Board on a clinical service improvement project she led in 2022. Dr Lee’s project was on reducing post-splenectomy infections and was an outstanding example of analysing problems and developing innovative solutions to support some of our most vulnerable patients. It was exciting to hear that WA is now a member of [Spleen Australia](#) as a result of Dr Lee’s work.

SPLEEN CARE

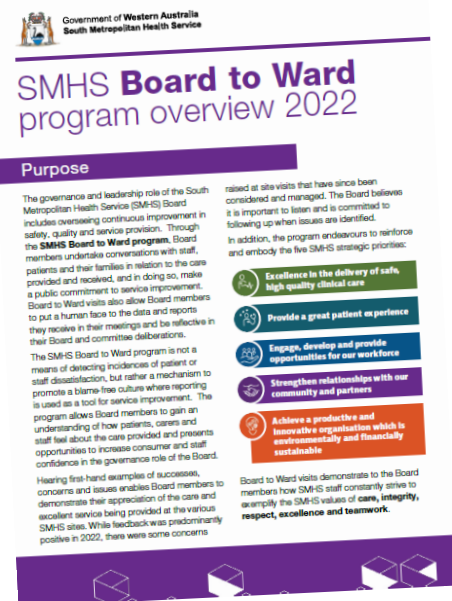
At each Board meeting, members consider patient stories to ensure that the patient is always at the forefront of our considerations. This month, the Board discussed a number of stories relating to emergency departments at both FSH and Rockingham General Hospital (RGH). It was good to consider stories that provided both improvement and learning opportunities and compliments where patients and their families had received excellent care.

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

- A review of the SMHS Board committees – At the beginning of each year, committee chairs consider whether the committees are meeting the objectives set out in their terms of reference and the governance requirements. It is also an opportunity to ensure the committee structure is best meeting the needs of the organisation.
- The SMHS Board Charter annual update. The Board Charter documents the role, composition and processes relating to the key governance activities of the Board.
- The SMHS Board Manual annual update. The Board Manual is a requirement of the Health Service Provider Board Governance Policy and contains the localised and tailored processes and procedures for the SMHS Board's operations.
- The SMHS Board governance map annual update. The SMHS Board Governance Map provides an overview of the reports reviewed by the SMHS Board Committees as well as the identified risks.

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

- Emergency and elective access across the SMHS' sites. Some steady improvements have been made since December and I thanked the executive directors of FSFHG and RkPG for their recent work on emergency access.
- The Peel Health Campus (PHC) 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 Murdoch Medihotel, which is being built adjacent to the FSH site in Murdoch and is due to open in 2023.
- The award of a [new five year contract to St John Ambulance](#) to deliver ambulance services in the State.



The Chair of the Board's Safety and Quality Committee presented the SMHS Board to Ward program overview for 2022. Through the program, Board members undertake conversations with staff, patients and their families in relation to the care provided and received, and in doing so, make a public commitment to service improvement. Board to Ward visits also allow Board members to put a human face to the data and reports they receive in their meetings and be reflective in their Board and committee deliberations. You can read the latest [Board to Ward program overview](#) on the SMHS website.

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, a strategic approach to managing the WA health service performance report 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. Board members also approved two procurement matters relating to linen.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the PHC project update, monthly lost time injury data, the risk register report, audit log, internal audits, litigation schedule, integrity and ethics matters and the work health and safety report.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 27 February 2023 at Murray District Hospital.

Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service
1 February 2023