



# SMHS Board Communiqué

*Excellent health care, every time*

## October 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 October 2023.



The Kambarang season is a time of transformation, with longer dry periods and a definite warming trend. An abundance of colours and flowers cover the landscape. Reptiles such as the yoom (bobtails) and the noon (snake) awaken from their hibernation in October as the warmth gives them enough energy to look for food. Young families of birds sing out for their parents to feed them and the koolbardi (magpie) is out protecting its nests and babies. The continuing warm weather indicates the Birak season is soon upon us.

At the beginning of the meeting, Board member Karen Brown acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and recognised their continuing connection to the land on which the Board was meeting. Karen acknowledged the resilience of First Nations people and their wisdom and strength in calling for a week of silence following the outcome of the Voice referendum. Karen reflected on the words of Thomas Mayo, advocate for the Indigenous Voice to Parliament, who acknowledged the referendum has brought Indigenous matters to the forefront of conversations around the country, and it is hoped we can now move forward together.

At each Board meeting, members consider patient stories to ensure the patient is always at the forefront of our considerations. This month, Board members heard from Dr Amanda Foster regarding the extensive treatment journey of a patient at FSH with a necrotising soft tissue infection. Board members recognised the extraordinary dedication of the multidisciplinary team and the compassion demonstrated in caring for this patient and their family.



In the Board Chair's report, I reflected on my recent personal visit to Singapore where I took the opportunity to tour KK Women's and Children's Hospital and Singapore Health Services (SingHealth) which established a twinning partnership with Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) in March 2023. A SMHS delegation was also attending the 26<sup>th</sup> Singapore-Malaysia Nursing Conference at the

same time, which presented an excellent opportunity for our Singapore counterpart to demonstrate their practices. The SMHS delegation identified many areas of learning that will now be pursued at FSH.

*Pictured above with SingHealth staff are Amanda Hannaway, A/Area Director Nursing and Midwifery SMHS (second from left); Carolyn Keane, Nursing Director, FSFHG (fourth from left); and Michael Jacobson, Nurse Director, Service 3 FSFHG (third from right).*

Also in my report, I asked Deputy Board Chair, Kim Gibson to provide a reflection on the SMHS Work Health and Safety (WHS) Recognition Program held on 19 October, which she attended and presented at on my behalf. Kim reflected on the importance of recognising and celebrating the significant contributions to health, safety and wellbeing performance by SMHS staff, as well as the value of cultural safety within the broader spectrum of psychosocial safety.

*Pictured right: Kim Gibson, SMHS Deputy Board Chair (middle), with winners of the SMHS WHS awards 2023.*



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

- Emergency and elective access across the SMHS' sites.
- The Peel Health Campus (PHC) transition and redevelopment project update.
- The launch of the new combined FSFHG website on 11 October, which complies with the government approved approach for digital services and holds all the information for the community to access in one location.
- The 2023 WA Nursing & Midwifery Excellence Awards (WANMEA) where four of SMHS' dedicated nursing and midwifery colleagues were announced as winners.
- Increasing stakeholder interest in the FSH Gaming Addiction clinic, as both Ms Maureen Lewis, Mental Health Commissioner and Ms Nola Marino MP, Federal Member for Forrest individually met with Dr Daniela Vecchio, head of the clinic and other FSH representatives on 31 October.

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 importance of the emergency and elective access recovery program and regular safety and quality reports, including the consideration of clinical incidents, and received an update on research initiatives and activities.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity, and staffing reports and reviewed contract management reports and risks.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the PHC project update, lost time injury data, the risk register report, audit log, internal audit reports, litigation schedule and integrity and ethics matters.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 27 November 2023 at FSH.

**Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins**  
**Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service**  
**31 October 2023**