



# SMHS Board Communiqué

*Excellent health care, every time*

## June 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 26 June 2023.



The meeting was held during the Noongar season of Makuru – the season of fertility. Makuru is June to July, known to be the coldest and wettest time of the year. Traditionally this was the time to move inland from the coast as the winds turned to the west and south, bringing cold weather. Makuru is also the time animals pair up in preparation for breeding in the coming season. Noongar people traditionally acknowledge six seasons, indicated by changes in local weather, plants and animals.

At the beginning of the meeting, Board member Dr Ryan Atkinson acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and recognised their continuing connection to the land on which the Board was meeting. Ryan reflected on the concept of reconciliation and the associated challenges with achieving this on a national and global scale. He talked about [Senator Pat Dodson's reflections](#) when he said, "Reconciliation must transcend Australian political theatre and promote a sense of national unity." As a GP working in the Kimberley, Ryan spoke about the challenge of intergenerational trauma and the role of forgiveness in working towards greater unity.

At each Board meeting, members consider patient stories to ensure the patient is always at the forefront of our considerations. This month, Board members discussed a story about a patient who has been assisted through the [Complex Needs Coordination team \(CoNeCT\)](#), and as a result has engaged with a range of community services and treatment management approaches to assist them moving forward.

This month's Board meeting included a presentation from the Organisational Development team which highlighted their progress in implementing the SMHS Organisational Development Strategy. This work is dedicated to developing a positive SMHS culture, focused on team and inter-team trust, respect and effective collaboration and communication leading to a psychologically safe organisation.

In the Board Chair's report, Board Chair Robyn Collins thanked members Julian Henderson and Kim Gibson who participated in Care to Lead Executive Panel Q&A sessions for the staff currently undertaking the program. Since its launch in 2022, Care to Lead is continuing this year, with the immersive leadership program providing a unique opportunity for leaders across SMHS to come together, learn from and share experiences with one another.

*Pictured right Giacinta Smith, Senior Project Officer, Adj. Assoc. Prof. Robyn Collins, SMHS Board Chair, Paul Forden, SMHS Chief Executive and Vicky Butler, Senior Project Officer at Care to Lead Graduation in December 2022.*





The Board Chair also thanked members for their participation in the annual Light After Dark ceremonies held across SMHS sites on 22 June. Led by the SMHS Pastoral Care Services team, the services provide an opportunity for all staff to remember colleagues, family and friends who are no longer with us. These services allow staff to pause and reflect on the past 12 months



and provide comfort and support to one another as we reflect on our shared experiences. *Pictured left Yvonne Parnell, SMHS Board Member addressing staff at Rockingham ceremony. Pictured right Julian Henderson, SMHS Board Member speaking at Fiona Stanley Hospital ceremony.*

The Chief Executive's report this month included:

- Emergency and elective access across the SMHS' sites.
- The Peel Health Campus (PHC) transition and redevelopment project. PHC will transition to SMHS in August 2024.
- A report on the excellent work being done by junior doctors involved in 10-week clinical improvement programs, specifically two recent presentations to the executive by junior doctors involved in the LifeFit SurgFit project to better prepare patients for surgery.

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. Committee members also heard about a pilot project focusing on reducing healthcare acquired infections.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity, and staffing reports, reviewed contract management reports and risks, approved a contract award and discussed service agreements for the upcoming financial year.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the PHC project update, quarterly health and safety reports, the risk register report, audit log, internal audit reports, litigation schedule, integrity and ethics matters, and an updated terms of reference. The Committee also approved the internal audit plan for the coming year.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 31 July 2023 at FSH.

**Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins**  
**Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service**  
**29 June 2023**