



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

July 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 31 July 2023.

At the beginning of the meeting, Board member Dr Amanda Boudville acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and recognised their continuing connection to the land on which the Board was meeting. Dr Boudville reflected on the Voice, the challenge in gathering accurate information, and the importance of having honest conversations and correcting untruths where possible.

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 patient who had experienced issues with the referral process and had concurrent appointments booked across both FSH and Rockingham General Hospital. Board acknowledged the importance of the relationship between hospitals and primary care in facilitating more detailed referrals from general practitioners to enable patients to be appropriately referred and triaged.

This month's Board meeting included a presentation on the SMHS Emergency and Elective Access Program and its achievements to date, as well as a projection of key themes for 2023/24. The Board were pleased to hear about the continued and intense focus on emergency department performance and patient flow across all SMHS' sites.

In the Board Chair's report, I reflected on my attendance at the signing of a memorandum of understanding between FSH and Sarojini Naidu Medical College (SNMC) in Agra, India. It was an honour to be joined in person by the Consul General of India to Western Australia and Northern Territories, Mr Amarjeet Singh Takhi, with SNMC representatives attending via video link. This is the second partnership to deliver on the SMHS strategic plan priority of exploring and developing twinning opportunities.



Pictured above (L-R): Professor Girish Dwivedi, FSH Cardiology consultant; Dr Bhaskar Mandal, FSH Head of Geriatric Medicine and Aged Care; Paul Forden, SMHS Chief Executive; Mr Amarjeet Singh Takhi, Consul General of India in Western Australia; representatives from Sarojini Naidu Medical College, Agra, India (via video link); Adj Assoc Prof Robyn Collins, SMHS Board Chair; Neil Doerty, Executive Director Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group (FSFHG); and Steve Wright, Service 4 Medical Director, FSFHG.



I thanked Board members who attended the NAIDOC week ceremonies across the SMHS hospital sites. I also thanked those members who attended the thank you morning tea the Board hosted to acknowledge the work of the SMHS Aboriginal Health Strategy team, Aboriginal Health Liaison team and Aboriginal Health Champions, who continue to lead the way in striving for better outcomes for Aboriginal patients and highlight the importance of culturally appropriate care and employment opportunities.

Pictured left are SMHS Deputy Board Chair Kim Gibson, Board Chair Adj Assoc Prof Robyn Collins and Board member Julian Henderson enjoying the performance by the Torres Strait Islander dancers at the FSH NAIDOC week opening 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 update.
- Cyber security – SMHS has an 85% compliance rate with cyber security training, the highest in the state.
- SMHS Sustainability 'Think before you glove' campaign – aiming to reduce plastic glove use at SMHS by 25%

This month, Board members attended a tour of the Avertas waste energy plant in Kwinana, arranged by the SMHS Sustainability team. Avertas Energy is the first facility in Australia to integrate recovery and reuse of waste with the generation of energy to deliver renewable baseload power. Board members found the site visit to be extremely informative and will contribute to future discussions on reducing the impact of SMHS waste on the environment.

Also in July, SMHS held the second Fiona Wood lecture in this year's series, which was on the topic of voluntary assisted dying, and Board member Colin Murphy provided the opening welcome.



Pictured above: SMHS Board member Colin Murphy, Meg Plaster and Alice Morison from the WA Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) State-wide Care Navigator Service with attendees at the SMHS Fiona Wood lecture

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.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity, and staffing reports, reviewed contract management reports and risks and endorsed the SMHS Annual Estimates for 2023/24 to be submitted to the Minister for Health.
- 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 and integrity and ethics matters. The Committee also endorsed the SMHS critical infrastructure risk management program, developed in accordance with amendments to the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 28 August 2023 at FSH.

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