



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

November 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 27 November 2023.

At the beginning of the meeting, Deputy Board Chair Kim Gibson acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and recognised their continuing connection to the land on which the Board was meeting. Kim reflected on the importance of engagement with Indigenous leaders to promote and prioritise cultural safety, and the challenge for those leaders to engage with all necessary stakeholders, especially in the wake of the outcome of the Voice referendum.

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 about two patient stories submitted via Care Opinion, both which demonstrated the challenge of balancing medical treatment requirements, admissions and discharges with the wishes of patients and their families.



In the Board Chair's report, I acknowledged the SMHS Excellence Awards which were held on Thursday 2 November 2023. This was an outstanding opportunity to celebrate our health service's amazing teams and individuals who demonstrate compassion, empathy and understanding when caring for our patients, each and every day. I was proud to be able to name Richard Crane, Manager Health Promotion and Community Development as the winner of the SMHS Board Award. I am pictured left with Richard and Paul Forden, SMHS Chief Executive. For more information about the awards and the very worthy winners, you can read the Excellence Awards page on our website: [South Metropolitan Health Service - SMHS Excellence Awards](#).

I reflected on representing SMHS at the PrideFEST Pride parade on 25 November 2023 with Board member Julian Henderson and other SMHS staff (pictured right on the SMHS float). It was an outstanding night where all attending felt safe, relaxed and enjoyed celebrating SMHS and LGBTQIA+ inclusion.



In my report, I also acknowledged the WA Safety & Quality Governance and Leadership workshop which the SMHS Board attended on Friday 3 November 2023. The workshop was extremely valuable in providing some insightful quality improvement concepts which we will apply through our Safety and Quality Committee and all governance processes.

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.
- Recent messaging to staff around COVID and the increase of cases in the community.
- Acknowledging the four SMHS finalists in the WA Health Excellence Awards 2023.

In November, Deputy Chair Kim Gibson and Board member Karen Brown completed a Board to Ward visit, spending some time chatting with staff and patients on the newly commissioned Moordibirdup ward at Rockingham General Hospital. *(Pictured right are Karen Brown, Joy Hopkins Clinical Nurse, and Deputy Chair Kim Gibson).*



This was the ninth Board to Ward undertaken by the SMHS Board in 2023, and this program continues to provide invaluable insight into the care provided and received at our hospital sites, as well as providing opportunities for reflection in the Board and Committee deliberations.

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 access recovery program and considered regular safety and quality reports, including clinical incidents, and received a quarterly update on strategic plan progress.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity, and staffing reports, reviewed contract management reports and risks, considered the strategic plan progress and endorsed a service level agreement and two procurement business cases.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the PHC project update, lost time injury data, the risk register report, audit log, internal audit reports, integrity and ethics matters and the strategic plan progress update.
- The People, Culture and Engagement Committee discussed the plan for consumer engagement in 2024, the strategic plan progress report, communication achievements as well as patient experience and workforce matters.



The Kambarang season is a time of transformation. The balgas (grass trees) start to flower, especially if they've been burnt in the past year or closely shaved. One of the most striking displays of flowers comes from the moodjar (Australian Christmas tree). Its bright orange and yellow flowers signal the heat is on its way.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 29 January 2024 at FSH.

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