



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

September 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 Thursday 28 September 2023.

At the beginning of the meeting, Board member Julian Henderson acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and recognised their continuing connection to the land on which the Board was meeting. Julian reflected on the upcoming Voice referendum and acknowledged the importance of demonstrating empathy and supporting one another as we approach the referendum, as well as after the outcome is known.

This month, Board members welcomed the Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, Minister for Health; Mental Health for a discussion about strategic matters, priorities and challenges. While the Chief Executive and I meet with the Minister on a bi-monthly basis, this was an excellent opportunity for all Board members to connect with the Minister in an engaging and positive conversation.

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 the compassionate efforts of a social worker from Rockingham General Hospital (RGH) who wrote a letter to a patient with significant health issues detailing her journey of care, to provide her with some clarity about her experience. Board members recognised the extraordinary dedication of the social work team in advocating for their patients to ensure the best outcome.

In the Board Chair's report, I reflected on the RGH staff voice committee meeting I attended as part of the Board's engagement with consumer and advisory groups. It was great to hear the innovative ideas being implemented to promote staff engagement and wellbeing. I also reflected on the inspiring R U OK event I attended at FSH in September, where guest speaker Denis Glennon AO, author of *Pastures of Healing – from the loss of a child* shared learnings from his journey of grief and pathways to finding peace after losing his daughter, Ciara Glennon. Mr Glennon's delivered a powerful presentation which resonated with all those in attendance.

I also reflected on the Greening the Healthcare Sector forum hosted by FSH in September and co-organised by the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA), the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Network and Western Australia



Sustainable Development Unit, which attracted more than 300 participants from Australia and New Zealand. In addition to the Hon Simon Millman MLA, representing the Minister for Health; Mental Health and Dr David Russell-Weisz, Director General Department of Health, presenters included FSH Urology Registrar Dr Ashley Lee, FSFHG Nursing Lead for Climate Health Jen Bardsley and SMHS Sustainability Officer Bridget Egan. Delegates also took part in guided tours of the FSH waste management dock, the central energy plant, and a Noongar art and garden tour, lead by SMHS Aboriginal Health Strategy.

Pictured above (L-R) are Dr David Russell-Weisz, Director General Department of Health; Adj Assoc Prof Robyn Collins, SMHS Board Chair; Mr Paul Forden, SMHS Chief Executive; Ms Michelle Isles, Independent Director, CAHA; and Mr Simon Millman MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health; Mental Health

Also in September, SMHS held the third Fiona Wood lecture in this year's series, which was on the topic of neurodiversity. The attendance rate was among the highest of the lecture series to date, and Board member Karen Brown provided the opening welcome.



Pictured above are Dr Kiri Von Klier, Psychiatry Specialist Registrar Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group (FSFHG) and Professor Wai Chen, Professor of Mental Health and Consultant Psychiatrist FSHG, and SMHS Board member Karen Brown (bottom right) with attendees at the SMHS Fiona Wood lecture on neurodiversity

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.
- Magenta Marshall, Member for Rockingham's visit to the new Women's Outpatient clinic at RGH. Ms Marshall was impressed with the new unit which includes antenatal, obstetrics and gynaecology outpatient services in the one location.
- The SMHS Aboriginal Health Strategy team coordinated book sales at both FSH and RGH with donated books from staff, raising more than \$2400 for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation

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 approved a contract award.
- 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 next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 30 October 2023 at FSH.



Board members acknowledge the meeting was held during the Noongar season of Djilba – the season of conception. Djilba is August to September, which is a time of transition, with some very cold and clear days mixed with warmer, rainy and windy days.

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