



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

April 2025 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 28 April 2025.



Djeran sees a break in the really hot weather associated with the preceding Bunuru season. Cool nights once again bring a dewy presence to the early mornings. It is a time of red flowers, especially the red flowering gum and the smaller and more petite flowers of the summer flame.

At the beginning of the meeting, Board member Dr Stephanie Trust acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. Dr Trust shared the details of The University of Melbourne's 50 words project, which aims to provide fifty words in every Indigenous language of Australia. Dr Trust highlighted the importance of language in preserving cultural connection. The Board acknowledged how crucial it is to learn from these reflections each month.

In patient stories this month, Board members heard about a spinal patient with complex needs who was managed across SMHS and East Metropolitan Health Service

The SMHS Compassionate Care awards are in their fourth year and were held during Patient Experience week from 28 April to 2 May. Each year, the SMHS Safety, Quality & Consumer Engagement team calls on employees and patients to nominate staff who have delivered compassionate care, encompassing the SMHS values of Care, Integrity, Respect, Excellence and Teamwork. A panel of consumers and staff then selected the award recipients, who received an inaugural badge at the site-based presentations.



All Board members enjoyed attending the FSH awards during the Board meeting break (pictured left: Adj. Assoc. Prof. Robyn Collins, SMHS Board Chair with FSH award winners).

Later in the week, Board member Liam Roche attended the Fremantle Hospital (FH) ceremony and Deputy Board Chair Kim Gibson attended the Peel Health Campus (PHC) and Rockingham General Hospital (RGH) events.

In the A/Chief Executive's report, Neil Doverty provided updates on:

- The official partnership between SMHS and the Virginia Mason Institute to implement a SMHS-wide Quality Management program.
- SMHS 2025 workplan priority areas, including access and demand and capacity optimisation; financial sustainability; and elective and outpatient recovery and reform.

In the Board Chair report, Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins reflected on the productive visit to FH with the Hon John Carey MLA, the new Minister for Health Infrastructure, and highlighted the outcomes of several recent meetings she attended.

The Board Committee Chairs shared updates on items considered at their April 2025 meetings:

- The Safety and Quality Committee received a quality improvement presentation on reducing time between discharge and contact with the Cardiovascular Rehabilitation Service for patients with acute coronary syndrome. The Committee also reviewed Aboriginal health key indicators, received an assurance report on the statewide Advanced Lung Disease Unit and Lung Transplant program and reviewed the regular safety and quality performance indicators.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the March financial performance reports, considered the contract management procurement and exception reports.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the quarterly work health and safety report, litigation schedule, audit log, risk register and integrity and ethics updates.
- The People, Culture and Engagement Committee received an update on the Consumer Feedback Strategy 2023-2027, and reviewed and discussed the Aboriginal workforce, patient experience and communications dashboards.

The next Board meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 26 May 2025 at FSH.

Ms Kim Gibson
A/Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service

6 May 2025



Pictured above, clockwise from left: Ms Kim Gibson, Deputy Board Chair at the RGH Compassionate Care awards; Ms Gibson and PHC award winners; and Mr Liam Roche, Board member (far left) at the FH ceremony.