



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

August 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 25 August 2025.



After the cold and wet of Makuru, Djilba is a transitional season. The days range from very cold and clear to warmer, rainy and windy days, with occasional sunny days. It is the start of immense flowering across the southwest. Yellow and cream flowers start to appear in masses, including yellow flowering plants such as wattle.

At the beginning of the meeting, Board member Sue Le Souef acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting, extending that respect to all First Nations people present. Sue shared a video clip [Punmu - We Stand Strong](#) featuring children from the RAWA Community school in Punmu, one of the most remote Aboriginal communities in Australia, celebrating Martu culture, languages, kinship and living, learning and growing on Country.

The Board invited FSH service directors to the meeting to discuss the current pressures the health service is facing regarding access and flow. The Board acknowledged the significant efforts of all staff in facing such demand and the directors thanked Board for the opportunity to discuss these matters at a broader level.

In my Chair report, I acknowledged the milestone reached in the SMHS Quality Management Program journey with the Virginia Mason Institute releasing their diagnostic report to Board and Executive. I also thanked Kim Gibson, Deputy Chair, for whom it was her final Board meeting, and acknowledged her unwavering commitment and dedication to safety and quality and her exceptional leadership in health care governance over the past nine years on the SMHS Board.

In the Chief Executive's report, Neil Doverly provided updates on:

- Executive recruitment;
- elective surgery waitlist management progress; and
- accreditation outcomes.

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

- The Safety and Quality Committee received a quality improvement presentation on the FSH Intensive Care Unit BRAG and journey board. The Committee also received a research update, discussed Aboriginal health and reviewed the regular safety and quality performance indicators.
- The Finance and Governance Committee welcomed Mr Rob Anderson, Assistant Director General and Mr Nicholas Webb, A/Director Purchasing and System Performance to discuss the 2025-26 budget. The Committee also discussed the July financial performance reports and considered the contract management procurement and exception reports.
- The Audit and Risk Committee received an update from the Office of the Auditor General representative. The Committee also considered the audit log, risk register and integrity and ethics updates and reviewed an internal audit report.
- The People, Culture and Engagement Committee received a quarterly workforce update, a communications report and endorsed the SMHS Multicultural Plan progress report 2024-25 and the SMHS Carers Recognition Act compliance report 2024-25 for progression to Board.

The next Board meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 30 September 2025 at FSH.

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

29 August 2025