



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

October 2025 meeting



With longer dry periods than the preceding Djilba season and a definite warming trend, Kambarang 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.

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 October 2025.

In my first meeting as Board Chair, I initially welcomed the three new SMHS Board members who commenced on 1 October 2025: Mr Brian Mumme, Ms Pearl Proud and Ms Libby Soderholm (pictured right, L-R). I also outlined my aims and expectations of the Board as we continue to work with SMHS management and oversee the activities of the organisation.



In an Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, Board member Dr Amanda Boudville acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting, extending that respect to all First Nations people present. Dr Boudville provided a personal reflection on listening to the experiences of an Aboriginal junior doctor and the challenges he has faced as he progressed through his early career. The Board agreed it is an important reminder of the impact on our Aboriginal colleagues.

This month in patient stories, the Board viewed a media clip of a State Rehabilitation Service patient who was discharged after learning to walk again. The Board acknowledged the media coverage and how important it is for these positive stories to be acknowledged and widely shared.

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

- Executive recruitment;
- financial performance and management; and
- SMHS Quality Management Program progress with the Virginia Mason Institute

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

- The Safety and Quality Committee received a presentation from the Rockingham General Hospital Clinical Redesign team on surgical aftercare and follow-up engagement following patient discharge from the Multi Stay Surgical Unit. The Committee also received a strategic plan progress update, reviewed the Committee risks and considered an update on Aboriginal health.
- The Finance and Governance Committee received a quarterly contract management procurement and exception report, considered the Committee's risks and approved a contract payment.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the audit log, risk register and integrity and ethics updates and received the quarterly work health and safety update and the litigation schedule.

- The People, Culture and Engagement Committee reviewed six-monthly updates on the Put it to the People platform and the SMHS Consumer Feedback Strategy. The Committee also considered quarterly project service reports on junior doctors and the nursing and midwifery graduate program and received updates on transformation and communications work.



In my Chair report, I reflected on attending the launch of the Pulse Foundation earlier in the month and discussed upcoming festive events which the Board always love to take part in each year. I also acknowledged the upcoming annual Board risk workshop, where the Board will review the SMHS corporate risk register.

The next Board meeting will take place on Monday 24 November 2025 at FSH.

Mr Liam Roche
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service

31 October 2025