



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

November 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 24 November 2025.

I undertook an Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting, and extended that respect to all First Nations people present. I shared my reflection on Western Australian Governor, Chris Dawson's visit to Bindjareb Noongar Country and his apology for the actions of the first Governor, James Stirling, who led the Pinjarra massacre nearly 200 years earlier. This apology served as an important reminder to the Board that stepping onto SMHS land at Peel Health Campus or Murray Districts Hospital holds deep cultural memory and unresolved grief for many Aboriginal patients and families.

This month in patient stories, the Board heard about a patient from Rockingham General Hospital who was transferred to FSH for an imaging procedure, and the importance of refining intrahospital transfers and patient services to ensure SMHS hospitals work as one network and put the patient first.

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

- Progress in the partnership between SMHS and the Virginia Mason Institute.
- the launch of the Safe2Say application for staff to report matters confidentially
- acknowledgement of Dr Daniela Vecchio, consultant psychiatrist and Head of Service for SMHS Mental Health at FSH, who has been named WA's Australian of the Year for 2026 for her groundbreaking work in establishing Australia's first publicly funded Gaming Disorder clinic at FSH in 2022.

In my Chair report, I reflected on attending recent meetings with SMHS management and the Department of Health, and I acknowledged Board members' commitment to participating in the upcoming SMHS staff Christmas activities.

I also thanked Ms Sue Le Souef, Deputy Board Chair for representing the Board at the WA Health Excellence Awards on Tuesday 25 November, which resulted in SMHS taking home four awards on the night:



- **Geriatricians for Older Adults in the Emergency Department (GOLD ED)** (Pictured left with Sue Le Souef) - *Director General's Award and Excellence in Research and Innovation award*
- **CHARM Oncology Management System Project** (in partnership with WA Country Health Service) - *Excellence in Safety and Quality Award*
- **Audiology Advanced Scope Practitioner Project** (in partnership with East Metropolitan Health Service and North Metropolitan Health Service) - *Excellence in Sustainability Award*

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

- The Safety and Quality Committee received a presentation from Dr Dominic Mallon, on the FSH immunology VIC-GP project which is a partnership between FSH, WA Primary Health Alliance and GPs aiming to improve access to clinical immunology and allergy expertise through realtime consultation. The Committee also received a Board to Ward report, considered an update on Aboriginal health outpatient indicator and received a quarterly update on SMHS research activity.

- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed a contract management procurement and exception report, considered the Committee's risks and received an annual Facilities Management Services Contract annual review for 2025.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the audit log, risk register and integrity and ethics updates. The Board approved an update to the SMHS Authorisations and Delegations Schedule and a Peel Health Campus Transition Project case study, both which were endorsed by the Committee to progress to Board.



Reptiles such as the yoom (bobtails) and the noon (snake) awaken from their hibernation in October as the warmth gives them enough energy to look for food. Young families of birds sing out for their parents to feed them and the koolbardi (magpie) is out protecting its nests and babies. The continuing warm weather indicates the Birak season is soon upon us.

The next Board meeting will take place on Monday 19 January 2026 at FSH.

Mr Liam Roche
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service

1 December 2025