



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

May 2026 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 May 2026.



As the season progresses, the nights become cooler and damper along with some cool and rainy days. Traditionally, it was the time mia mias (houses or shelters) were made waterproof in readiness for the deep wintery months of Makuru to come.

Traditional foods included zamia seeds collected and stored during the last season, root bulbs of the yandjet (bullrushes), freshwater fish, frogs and turtles.

Deputy Board Chair Sue Le Souef provided an Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. Sue reflected on the importance of National Reconciliation Week and the 'All In' theme for 2026, which highlights that the responsibility sits with all of us to actively contribute and sustain our efforts in reconciliation.

The Board welcomed the Hon Minister Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Medical Research; Innovation and took pride in showcasing the current progress and achievements in SMHS research.

We also welcomed Dr Daniela Vecchio, Head of Mental Health Service at Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group, who presented on the impressive work being undertaken the Gaming Disorder Clinic.

The Board Committee Chairs shared updates on items considered at their May 2026 meetings:

- The Safety and Quality Committee members and other Board members received a Quality Improvement presentation on compliance with documenting observations on the patient-controlled IV analgesia chart. The Committee also received SMHS research and Aboriginal health maternity updates and reviewed several quarterly project service reports.
- The Finance and Governance Committee reviewed the financial performance and contract management exception report for April 2026.
- The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed the audit log and risk register for April 2026, received the litigation schedule, integrity and ethics report and considered a finalised internal audit report.

All Committees considered their meeting cadence and agreed to trial bi-monthly meetings for the remainder of 2026.



In my Chair report, I updated the Board on my attendance at several recent events, including a smoking ceremony at the newly refurbished V-Block at Fremantle Hospital. Whadjuk Noongar Elder, Barry Winmar (pictured left) led a moving smoking and cleansing ceremony, which serves to clear a place of negative energy and bad spirits, creating a space centred around safety, respect and healing.

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

- SMHS Winter strategy initiatives and progress, including staff uptake of flu vaccinations
- The SMHS Improvement Method progress and the executive team's training with Virginia Mason Institute to continue the commitment to embedding of new leadership behaviours.

Later in the week, I attended the Long Service awards ceremony for SMHS and Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group (pictured below), where I had the pleasure of acknowledging valued colleagues who have dedicated decades of service to our hospitals, including one staff member who achieved an extraordinary 50-year milestone.



The next Board meeting will take place on Monday 29 June 2026 at FSH.

Mr Liam Roche
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service

29 May 2026