



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

June 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 29 June 2026.



Makuru is the coldest and wettest time of the year. Traditionally this was the time to move inland from the coast as the winds turned to the west and south, bringing cold weather.

Food sources changed from sea and freshwater foods to land grazing animals such as the yongka (kangaroo).

Dr Amanda Boudville provided an Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. Dr Boudville reflected on recently attending a meeting in Adelaide and hearing about the Aboriginal Elders Village, a 24/7 aged care residence in Adelaide's northern suburbs providing culturally safe and respectful care that honours the unique needs of Elders. The Board acknowledged that South Australia is much further advanced in this space than Western Australia, and equivalent services are not currently offered in our State.

In patient stories, Board received a Care Opinion story from a patient's wife sharing their positive experience with Rehabilitation in The Home. Members also heard about a Medicare-ineligible patient whose treatment was approved to progress at FSH. The Board noted the systemwide challenge in providing whilst acknowledging the health service will incur the cost.

The Board welcomed a presentation on the SMHS Interim Strategic Plan and endorsed the approach of aligned priority areas to provide focused effort for the remainder of 2026. The Plan also aligns SMHS work with the broader WA Health system priorities and delivers on the first milestone of the *Collectively one, locally led* partnership with the Virginia Mason Institute.

In my Chair report, I reflected on welcoming the Hon Meredith Hammat MLA, Minister for Health to FSH where she viewed some of the winter strategy initiatives implemented at SMHS

(Pictured right with FSH clinical leads and Mr Luke Dix, Executive Director Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group).



I also reflected on attending the graduation ceremony of the latest cohort to complete the SMHS Care to Lead program.

In the Chief Executive's report, Neil Doverty 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.

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

- The Safety and Quality Committee members received a Quality Improvement presentation regarding line labelling in the Acute Medical Unit. The Committee also received project service reports, three Board to Ward reports and an Aboriginal health outpatients update.
- The Finance and Governance Committee reviewed the financial performance and contract management exception report for May 2026, endorsed a contract award, discussed the predicted end of year financial performance and endorsed the Committee's annual Terms of Reference update.
- The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed the audit log and risk register for May 2026, received the litigation schedule, integrity and ethics report and the Committee's annual Terms of Reference update. The Committee also welcomed the new internal audit provider to the meeting.
- The People, Culture & Engagement Committee received regular updates on communications, workforce, transformation and the Australian Medical Association's Hospital Health Check. The Committee also endorsed its annual Terms of Reference update, the Disability and Inclusion Plan progress report 2025-26 and the SMHS Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2026-2030 and Action Plan 2026-2027.

The next Board meeting will take place on Monday 27 July 2026 at FSH.

Mr Liam Roche
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service

6 July 2026