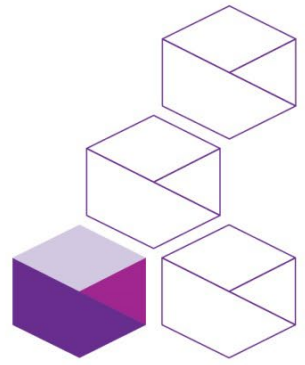




SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

July 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 27 July 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).

Karen Brown provided an Acknowledgement to Traditional Owners, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar land on which the Board was meeting, reflecting on the integral role our Aboriginal Liaison team play in providing patients with culturally safe care.



There were several NAIDOC week celebrations across SMHS, each grounded in culture and community, recognising history, cultures, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. I was delighted to attend the Cockburn Health NAIDOC celebration and had the pleasure of also attending Fremantle Hospital NAIDOC event alongside Juan Clarke Fremantle Director Operations and Site Management (*pictured above right*). The NAIDOC Welcome to Country, didgeridoo performance, storytelling and traditional dance performed at Fremantle by Whadjuk Noongar community members (*pictured below*).

The July Board meeting provided a timely platform for the Board to endorse a proposal to review current SMHS approach to Acknowledgement of Country being led by the Aboriginal Health Strategy team. It represents our ongoing commitment to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and achievements, and continues to shape communities today.



The Board welcomed Hon Meredith Hammat MLA, Minister for Health and Mr Tom Beyer, Minister for Health Chief of Staff. This was an interactive opportunity to hear directly about Minister Hammat's vision for WA's health system and how SMHS can best support in achieving these.

We also welcomed an update from the SMHS Executive Director for Transformation regarding SMHS activity in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the SMHS Strategic Plan- 2027 and beyond. These initiatives are closely aligned with the Virginia Mason Institute (VMI) partnership and broader WA Health priorities, reinforcing the *Collectively One, Locally Led* approach.

In my Chair report, I reflected on the recent HSP Board Chair Forum featuring guest presenters Jane Laurence, Department of Health's A/Executive Director for Governance and System Support and Paula Rogers, Independent Chair QEll Medical Centre Health and Biomedical Precinct Leadership Group.

I also invited Dr Amanda Boudville to reflect on the recent WA Stories Chapter III, Story 7 about Fiona Stanley she recently attended. The event was held at the WA Museum Boola Bardip on Friday 24 July whereby Perth Symphony invited attendees into the world of Professor Fiona Stanley. The well-attended event creatively brought Professor Fiona Stanley's remarkable story to life, highlighting her integral role in transforming healthcare and world-class research.



Pictured above left, SMHS Chief Executive Mr Neil Doverty, FSFHG Executive Director Mr Luke Dix with Professor Fiona Stanley. Pictured above right, FSFHG Allied Health Service Director Ms Sara Pearson, with Board member Dr Amanda Boudville and FSFHG Executive Director Mr Luke Dix.

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

- SMHS Winter strategy initiatives and progress, including key achievements and deliverables.
- The inaugural SMHS Improvement Method quarterly progress report. This provided an overview of progress since commencement of the partnership with VMI and outlined key priorities for the next reporting period.

In line with the new bi-monthly Board sub-committees meeting cycle, there were no sub-committee meetings held this month. These Committees will reconvene in August. Updates from those meetings will be provided to the SMHS Board, with key highlights subsequently reported through the August Board Communiqué.

Board meetings remain monthly with the next Board meeting scheduled for Monday 31 August 2026 at FSH.

Mr Liam Roche
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service

29 July 2026