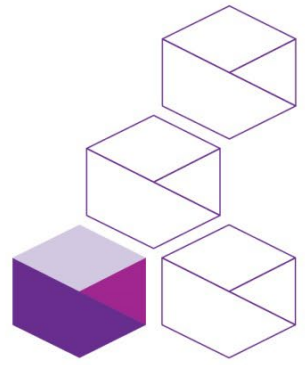




SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

August 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 31 August 2026.

Djilba

Season of conception

First spring: August to September
Mixture of wet days, cold nights and pleasant warm days.



After the cold and wet Makuru, Djilba is a transitional season. The days range from very cold and clear to warmer, rainy and windy days, with occasional sunny days.

It is the start of immense flowering across the southwest. Yellow and cream flowers start to appear in masses, including yellow flowering plants such as wattle.

Main food sources traditionally included many of the land-based grazing animals from the previous Makuru season, including the yongka (kangaroo), wetj (emu) and the koomool (possum).

Colin Murphy provided an Acknowledgement to Traditional Owners, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar land on which the Board was meeting. He reflected on a recent visit to Wildflower Drive along the rabbit proof fence and the lasting impacts of the Stolen Generations on individuals, families and communities. The discussion highlighted the lasting effects of intergenerational trauma on families, parenting and wellbeing, and reinforced the importance of listening, learning and supporting ongoing healing and reconciliation.

We welcomed three new Board members, Adjunct Associate Professor Learne Durrington, Dr Kate Stannage and Sue Wilson, concurrently with the reappointment of Dr Stephanie Trust to the Board following the conclusion of her first term.

Together, these members bring extensive experience across healthcare, governance, community, engagement, leadership, clinical practice and strategic planning. Their knowledge and expertise will strengthen the Board's oversight and support SMHS to continue delivering excellent healthcare for the communities we serve.

As we welcomed our new and returning members, we also acknowledged and extended our sincere thanks to outgoing longstanding Board members Sue Le Souef and Dr Amanda Boudville whose terms concluded upon these appointments.

As part of my Chair's Report, I reflected on attending the Mandurah Hospital media event on 4 August with Premier Hon Roger Cook MLA, Minister Hon John Carey MLA, Minister Hon Meredith Hammat MLA, and Peel Health Campus Executive Director, Kellie Blyth (*pictured right*).

The event emphasised the importance of continued investment in health infrastructure to meet the growing needs of the Peel region and support improved access to care for the community.

I also attended the SMHS Finance and Governance Committee meeting on 24 August alongside Department of Health's Deputy Director General, Philip Aylward and Assistant Director General Financial Business Services, Pippa Beamish-Burton.



Neil Doverty provided a comprehensive Chief Executive Report that covered top issues and updates in relation to the health service during the month, including:

- SMHS Winter strategy initiative, including progress against the overarching strategic approach and its key pillars of prevention, patient flow and bed capacity, aimed at maintaining safe and timely access to care during periods of increased demand.
- The visit by the Hon Meredith Hammat MLA, Minister for Health to Fiona Stanley Hospital on 31 August, where she acknowledged the exceptional efforts of ICU, Incident Management team and other staff involved in responding to the recent fire incident and subsequent recovery efforts.

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

- The Safety and Quality Committee members received a Quality Improvement presentation regarding Short Stay Arthroplasty Project, aimed at enhancing postoperative outcomes for hip and knee replacement patients across the care pathway. The Committee endorsed the Terms of Reference with minor amendment.
- The People, Culture & Engagement Committee received updates on workforce, communication and committee risks. The Committee endorsed the SMHS Carer Recognition Act Compliance Report 2025-2026 and the WA Multicultural Policy Framework Progress Report 2025-2026.
- The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed the audit log and risk register for August 2026, approved the Responsible Entity Risk Management Program Annual Report. The Committee also noted and approved the release of substantially complete 2025-2026 SMHS Annual Financial Statements and noted the Key Performance Indicators. The Committee received the litigation schedule, integrity and ethics report.
- The Finance and Governance Committee reviewed the financial performance and contract management exception report for August 2026. The Committee endorsed escalation to Board for the write-off of damaged pharmacy inventory.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 29 September 2026 at FSH.

Mr Liam Roche
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service

2 September 2026