



NMHS Board Communiqué

July 2023

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the NMHS Board meeting held on Friday, 7 July 2023 at the Community Clinical School, Joondalup Health Campus, in the Noongar Season of Makuru.



Makuru is the coldest and wettest time of the year, with rain, storms and long nights.

Board Members present

Clinical Professor David Forbes AM, Chair
Ms Rebecca Strom, Deputy Chair
Ms Angela Edwards
Mr Tony Evans
Ms Karen Gullick
Dr Lewis MacKinnon
Prof Paul Norman AM
Ms Paula Rogers
Mr Steve Toutountzis

Events and achievements

- National Reconciliation Week
- Appointment Deborah Jacobs as the inaugural Aboriginal Cancer Nurse Coordinator

Board endorsements

- Annual NMHS Board Governance Attestation Statement 2022/23

Visits and engagement

- Joondalup Health Campus
 - New Mental Health Unit
 - Emergency Department

Our Community and Our People: embedding our values

Reflections on consumer and staff feedback are a monthly focus for the Board, in addition to reflecting on NMHS's values. The stories offer valuable insights to help us understand the needs of consumers and their concerns, providing learning opportunities to improve and deliver excellent health care.

The Board considered the value of care and use of empathy when responding to individuals who have taken the time to share their experience. The Board acknowledged the plan for quality improvement initiatives to build the skills and understanding of staff who respond to consumer and carer complaints.

Presentations to the Board

The Board received an update on NMHS's climate and sustainability initiatives, noting it coincided with the world's hottest week on record. Achievements in leadership and waste were highlighted, notably the [Ride for Life](#), which was hosted by the NMHS. The event, which saw Western Australia the first state in Australia to participate, raised awareness of climate change and impacts on health outcomes. In addition, approaches to identify and target areas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the organisation, consistent with the State Government's emissions legislated reduction target, were considered.

The Chief Executive Officer of Joondalup Health Campus, who hosted the meeting, outlined several strategies implemented in the Emergency Department that have resulted in a reduction in the number of hours of ambulance ramping.

The Board also heard from the Executive Director of the Health Consumers' Council who provided an overview of the organisation, its role in advocacy and opportunities for partnership and engagement with the NMHS.

The Board welcomed new Board Member Dr Lewis MacKinnon.

Board Chair and Chief Executive update

Our updates and discussions focussed on review of current issues and reports.

Board Chair

Discussions included:

- NMHS operational priorities for 2023/24





Clinical Professor David Forbes AM
BOARD CHAIR, NMHS

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Next Board meeting

Friday, 4 August 2023

Graylands Campus, Mount Claremont



NMHS Board members flanked by Dr Amanda Ling, Chief Executive Officer (L) and Dr Kevin Hartley, Director of Medical Services (R) Joondalup Health Campus (JHC) at the new JHC Mental Health Unit.



George Eskander, Area Director Clinical Services; Clin Prof Forbes, NMHS Board Chair, Tony Evans Board Member, Ngalak Nidja Dance Group, Dr Trish Elder, Director Aboriginal Health; Dr Shirley Bowen, NMHS Chief Executive at SCGH's National NAIDOC Week event.

- Further consideration of recommendation 13 outlined in the [Independent Governance Review of the Health Services Act 2016](#).
- Launch of the [Perinatal and infant mental health promotion and prevention plan 2023 to 2027](#) by the Women and Newborn Health Service
- June Health Service Performance Report.

Chief Executive

This month's report included:

- Your Voice in Health Survey and AMA Hospital Health Check results.
- Ongoing engagement and consultation for the new Women's and Babies' Hospital
- Emergency access and elective surgery performance
- Highlights, risks and areas of focus from each of the operational areas.

Board Committee updates

The minutes and a précis from our Committees were provided by the respective Chairs.

Audit and Risk Committee

No meeting held in June.

Finance Committee

The Committee received a presentation from the Revenue and Accounts Payable team and an update on capital and infrastructure projects underway across the organisation.

In addition, reports and discussions focussed on performance, activity, budget and staffing trends, including strategies to ensure financial sustainability.

People, Engagement and Culture Committee

The focus area for June was culture and engagement.

The Committee received a presentation from Mental Health Public Health Dental Services, and progress updates on nursing and midwifery workforce engagement strategies, and deployment of the new enterprise HR Plus solution.

In addition, reports about work health and safety compliance, industrial matters, the status of internal audits and strategic risks were reviewed.

Safety, Quality and Consumer Engagement Committee

The Committee received an engaging and inspiring presentation on innovative and consumer engagement initiatives to improve care for older adults, and a safety and quality update from the Mental Health Public Health and Dental Services.

The Committee discussed the importance of effective clinical governance and strong organisational culture in improving and delivering safe, high-quality health care.

The latest safety and quality performance reports were considered, with focus on infection prevention and surveillance.

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R: Dr