



# NMHS Board Communiqué

**October 2023**

*This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the NMHS Board meeting held on Friday, 6 October 2023 in the Executive Board Room, QEII Medical Centre in the Noongar Season of Kambarang.*



*Kambarang brings longer and warmer days and decreasing rain. It is wildflower season with an abundance of colours and flowers in bloom.*

## **Board Members present**

Ms Rebecca Strom, A/ Board Chair  
Mrs Jahna Cedar OAM  
Ms Angela Edwards  
Mr Tony Evans  
Ms Karen Gullick  
Assoc Prof Lewis MacKinnon  
Prof Paul Norman AM  
Mr Steve Toutountzis

## **Events and achievements**

- WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards 2023
  - Sandra Vinciguerra – 2023 Nurse of the Year; Excellence in Primary, Public and Community Nursing
  - Jodie Atkinson – Excellence in Education
  - Dr Zoe Bradfield – Excellence in Research
- Australian College of Midwives Maternity Service of the Year
  - Midwifery Graduate Program, WNHS

## **Welcome**

We welcomed new executive member Dr Tina Bertilone, Executive Director, Consumer Engagement and Clinical Excellence who outlined her vision to enhance NMHS's safety and quality performance and improve patient outcomes.

## **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 stories from consumers who shared their experience of care by North Metropolitan Mental Health Services. The Board acknowledged the challenges of, and barriers to, providing care to vulnerable members of the community.

## **Presentations to the Board**

The Board welcomed the Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, Minister for Health; Mental Health for a strategic discussion concerning local, State, and national directions, priorities, and challenges. Members appreciated the opportunity to hear directly from the Minister and highlight some of the excellent work and initiatives the organisation is currently leading and delivering.

## **Board Chair and Chief Executive update**

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

### **Board Chair**

Discussions and reflections included:

- System-wide initiatives to improve timely access to health care through the Ministerial Taskforce on Ambulance Ramping
- September Health Service Performance Report

### **Chief Executive**

This month's report included updates on:

- HEART Program initiatives and performance
- Activity and demand
- Accreditation
- Highlights, risks, and areas of focus from each of the operational areas.



## Board endorsements

- NMHS Strategic Asset Plan 2023 to 2033

## Visits and engagement

- Corporate services
  - Consumer Engagement and Clinical Excellence
  - Workforce, and Occupational Health and Safety



Rebecca Strom

**ACTING BOARD CHAIR, NMHS**

[NMHS.BoardSecretariat@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:NMHS.BoardSecretariat@health.wa.gov.au)

## Next Board meeting

Friday, 10 November 2023

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital  
QEII Medical Centre, Nedlands



L-R: Dr Zoe Bradfield, Researcher of the Year; Dr Shirley Bowen, NMHS Chief Executive; Sandra Vinciguerra, Nurse of the Year and Excellence in Primary, Public and Community Care; Karen Gullick, NMHS Board member; Jodie Atkinson, Educator of the Year; Dr Jodi Graham, Executive Director Sir Charles Gairdner Group; at the WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards.

## Board Committee updates

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

### Audit and Risk Committee

The Committee received updates on legislative and regulatory compliance obligations, as well as progress of internal and external audits.

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

### Finance Committee

The Committee received a presentation from the Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group about performance and activity, and considered the refreshed ten-year NMHS Strategic Asset Plan.

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

### People, Engagement and Culture Committee

No meeting held in September.

### Safety, Quality and Consumer Engagement Committee

The Committee received an overview of the Department of Respiratory Medicine, which provides a range of specialist and State inpatient and outpatient clinical services. In addition, members heard about their consumer engagement initiatives and internationally renowned research.

The Committee also received updates on continuous quality improvement activities to improve safety, effectiveness, and experience of patient care. The Plan to deliver safety and quality priorities of the NMHS Safety and Quality Strategy was shared.

Safety and quality performance reports, including clinical incidents and consumer experience were also considered.