



NMHS Board Communiqué

March 2024

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations of the NMHS Board meeting held on Friday, 1 March 2024 at Dental Services, Salter Point in the Noongar Season of Bunuru.



*Bunuru (second summer) is the hottest time of the year in Noongar **boodja** (land/country) with little to no rain, a glorious abundance of sunlight and exceptional heat.*

Board members present

Clin Prof David Forbes AM, Board Chair
Ms Rebecca Strom, Deputy Board Chair
Assoc Prof Mathew Coleman
Ms Angela Edwards
Mr Tony Evans
Ms Karen Gullick
Assoc Prof Lewis MacKinnon
Mr Steve Toutountzis

Approvals and endorsements

- Board Finance Committee Charter and Terms of Reference

Events and achievements

- Commencement of the new surgical robot at Osborne Park Hospital



Gino Cirillo, Director Dental Services, and Regional Dental Therapists Jodie Burton, Lisa Rielly and Glenys Langford with new Oral Health Therapy graduates.

Our Community and Our People: embedding our values

Reflections on consumer feedback, as they relate to NMHS's values, are a monthly focus for the Board. The stories offer valuable insights to help us understand the needs and concerns of our community, and provide learning opportunities to improve and deliver excellent health care.

The Board heard about an experience of care provided by the Mental Health Services that did not meet expectations. It reflected on the response and the positive actions taken by the service to address concerns raised through the advocacy group about respect and communication. Separately, the Board acknowledged the care provided to a patient who received successful treatment by staff from Public Health's WA Tuberculosis Control Program.

Presentations to the Board

The Acting Chief Dental Officer provided a comprehensive overview of oral health services across the State and the work being undertaken to achieve the goals set out in the [National](#) and [State](#) Oral Health Plans. The presentation highlighted the challenges of geographic spread in delivering sustainable dental services locally and nationally, as well as current barriers to accessing care. The Board acknowledged the importance of good oral care, which can adversely affect general health and wellbeing, noting the link to preventable hospital presentations and admissions. The Board also learned about the new Early Childhood Dental Program, coordinated by the WA Country Health Service, which will offer dental care to children aged 6 months to four years to reduce oral disease by school age.

The Director of NMHS Dental Services complemented the presentation by the Chief Dental Officer, briefing members on public general dental services available to priority and vulnerable sectors of the adult community across the metropolitan area as well as rural and remote areas. Information about the dedicated public school dental service was also shared.

Board Chair and Chief Executive update

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

Board Chair

Discussions and reflections included:

- The role of innovation and importance of fostering a workforce culture that embraces innovation to improve healthcare delivery and outcomes



Visits and engagement

- Mount Henry Dental Clinic
- Dental Services Clinical Simulation Laboratory



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BOARD CHAIR, NMHS

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 [Our Board and communiques](#)

 [Minister for Health's Statement of Expectations](#)

 [NMHS's Statement of Intent](#)

Next Board meeting

Friday, 5 March 2024

Women and Newborn Health Service
Subiaco

- NMHS's operational priorities for 2024
- Board and Executive safety and quality masterclass on 'Making Data Count', which focussed on better ways to present and use our performance data
- January Health Service Performance Report

Chief Executive

This month's report included updates on:

- Legislative reform and the key changes to delivery of women's health and mental health services
- International, national, and local interest in the NMHS HEART Program
- Engagement activities with local, State, and national representatives as well as sites and services
- Activity and performance
- Highlights, risks, and areas of focus from each of the operational areas

Board Committee updates

The minutes and a précis from each of our Board Committee meetings were provided by the respective Chairs.

Audit and Risk Committee

No meeting held in February.

Finance Committee

The Committee considered reports on performance, activity, budget and staffing trends, including strategies to ensure financial sustainability. In addition, an update on the medical and medical imaging equipment replacement program was received.

The status of priority procurements and contracts, and major capital works were reviewed.

People, Engagement and Culture Committee

The meeting's focus was on innovation. The Committee also received a presentation on engagement, culture and wellbeing activities from the Nursing and Midwifery Services, including new leadership and mentorship programs.

In addition, it received an update on initiatives to make NMHS the Best Place to Work and implementation of the new enterprise human resources management system. Reports about work health and safety compliance, staff wellbeing, and industrial matters were also reviewed.

Safety, Quality and Consumer Engagement Committee

The Committee welcomed the Director of Emergency Medicine at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, who provided an overview of the service with a focus on safety and quality.

The Committee also reviewed the organisation's healthcare performance in several recently published internal and external reports, and discussed the role of consumer representation.

The monthly consumer experience, safety and quality performance and trends, with focus on activities to improve patient safety were also considered.