



NMHS Board Communiqué

April 2024

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations of the NMHS Board meeting held on Friday, 5 April 2024 at King Edward Memorial Hospital in the Noongar Season of Djeran.



Djeran sees a break in the really hot weather, being marked by cooler nights, dewy mornings and the falling of leaves.

Board members present

Clin Prof David Forbes AM, 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

- NMHS Board Audit and Risk Committee Charter and Terms of Reference
- NMHS Internal Audit Charter
- Boorloo (Perth) Public Health Unit renaming, formerly Metropolitan Communicable Disease Control

Events and achievements

- Launch of Hospital In The Home (HITH) Service

Visits and engagement

- Social Work
- Pregnancy Choices and Abortion Care Clinic

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 a first-time mother-to-be whose birth plan and delivery were unexpectedly and adversely affected by workforce shortages. The Board reflected on the quality of the response by the organisation, which conveyed a high-level of empathy and compassion. In addition, the safeguards put in place by the organisation to improve access to maternity care and ensure a better experience for the mother second time around were recognised. Separately, the Board acknowledged positive feedback from new parents about the holistic care provided by the Osborne Park Hospital multidisciplinary Maternity Antenatal Postnatal Service team.

Presentations to the Board

The Acting Director General briefed the Board on the proposal for a Comprehensive Cancer Centre Project to be located on the Queen Elisabeth II Centre site. Currently a business case, commissioned by the State Government, is being progressed by the Department of Health in partnership with the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research.

Members from the NMHS Hospital Emergency Access Response Team (HEART) Program provided an overview of a range of initiatives to address and reduce ambulance ramping, which have led to increased access to emergency care and created more capacity within our hospitals. The strong commitment by frontline staff to improve patient care and favourable outcomes have attracted local, national, and international interest. The Team also reflected on the enablers and factors that have been critical to the Program's success.

Board Chair and Chief Executive update

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

Board Chair

Discussions and reflections included:

- NMHS operational priorities for 2024





Launch of the new Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Hospital in the Home Service (HITH)

Back row (L-R): Dr Shirley Bowen, NMHS Chief Executive; Dr Claire Matthews, Medical Co-Director; Karen Gullick, NMHS Board member; Dr Jodi Graham, Executive Director Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group; Clin Prof David Forbes AM, NMHS Board Chair; Dr Elisabeth Feher, Eithne Molloy, Nurse Co-Director; Narelle Hawkins, Clinical Nurse Manager HITH.

Front row (L-R): Consumer Advisory Council representatives Elizabeth Mills, Joanne Khan, Lynette Banks.

- Reflections on the passing of Dr Harry Cohen, a former Clinical Director at the Women and Newborn Health Service, who made a significant contribution to women’s health through obstetrics and gynaecology
- February Health Service Performance Report

Chief Executive

This month’s report included updates on:

- Progress of the NMHS Strategic Plan refresh
- The Joondalup Health Campus (Public Private Partnership) contract with Ramsay Health Care
- Integrity
- 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

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 emergency management preparedness, work health and safety compliance, industrial matters, and 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, as well as updates on corporate reform projects and strategic asset management.

The Committee considered reports on performance, activity, budget and staffing trends, including strategies to ensure financial sustainability. In addition, the status of priority procurements and contracts, and major capital works across the NMHS were reviewed.

People, Engagement and Culture Committee

No meeting held in March.

Safety, Quality and Consumer Engagement Committee

The Committee welcomed the team from the WA Eating Disorders State-wide Services, which 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 clinical quality registry reports, and discussed planned reform of the State’s human research ethics committees.

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



Clinical Professor David Forbes AM
BOARD CHAIR, NMHS

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 [Board and communiques](#)

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

 [NMHS’s Statement of Intent](#)

Next Board meeting

Friday, 3 May 2024
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
Nedlands