



NMHS Board Communiqué

October 2024

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations of the NMHS Board meeting held on Friday, 4 October 2024 at King Edward Memorial Hospital 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

Rebecca Strom, Board Chair
Assoc Prof Mathew Coleman
Angela Edwards
Renaë Farmer
Adj Assoc Prof Karen Gullick
Angela Komninos
Assoc Prof Lewis MacKinnon
Dr Ian Rogers

Approvals and endorsements

- Financial and Performance Statements 2023/24
- Security of Critical Infrastructure (SOCI) Act 2018 Critical Infrastructure Risk Management Program Annual Report

Events and achievements

- Youth Innovation Think Tank

Visits and engagement

- Maternal Fetal Assessment Unit
- Facilities Rectification Works

Our Community and Our People: embedding our values

This month, in place of the patient stories, we received an update on initiatives underway across the organisation to improve the complaints handling process for consumers and staff. The work recognises the valuable insights and contribution our patients, families and carers make in shaping and improving healthcare safety and quality.

Presentations to the Board

The Board received a presentation by the Executive Director of the Women and Newborn Health Service that provided an overview of the Service's role in providing clinical services, conducting research, and delivering teaching and training to grow and develop the future workforce. The update highlighted strengths of the service, socioeconomic and cultural factors influencing care delivery and opportunities to expand existing, and establish new, services to improve health outcomes for women throughout the course of their lives.

The Board also welcomed the Director General of Health who briefed members on priorities for the WA health system to ensure Western Australians continue to have access to safe and high-quality health care. In addition, the challenges and opportunities concerning an ageing population, increasing demand for services, and costs associated with emerging technologies and digital transformation were touched on.

Board Chair and Chief Executive update

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

Board Chair

Discussions and reflections included:

- Development of a revised Board Risk Appetite following release of the new NMHS Strategic Plan 2024 to 2027
- Planning for the annual evaluation of the Board's corporate governance performance
- August Health Service Performance Report

Chief Executive

This month's report included updates on:

- Ongoing high demand for emergency services and initiatives to increase capacity
- Commencement of the Nurse/Midwife to patient ratios across eight wards at Sir Charles Gairdner and Osborne Park Hospitals
- The staff recognition, Going the Extra Mile (GEM), awards ceremony on 10 October 2024
- Highlights, risks, and areas of focus from each of the operational areas





Youth Innovation Think Tank – Runners up
Ms Rebecca Strom, NMHS Board Chair (L) with students from St Hilda's Anglican Girls School and event organisers.



Rebecca Strom
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, 1 November 2024
Graylands Campus, Mount Claremont

Board Committee updates

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

Audit and Risk Committee

The Committee received an update on strategies to address and maintain water quality across NMHS sites and services as well as interventions to support the management and assurance of integrity.

In addition, the Committee considered the NMHS's obligations under the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* and the draft Board Risk Appetite statement, and received updates on cyber security, and policy governance.

Reports on legislative and regulatory compliance obligations, as well as the progress of internal and external audits were also tabled.

Finance Committee

The Committee received a briefing from the Office of the Auditor General as part of its annual external Financial Audit results. In addition, the Committee received a regular update from the Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group about performance and activity.

Reports and discussions focussed on performance, activity, budget and staffing trends, including strategies to ensure financial sustainability were reviewed.

People, Engagement and Culture Committee

No meeting held in September.

Safety, Quality and Consumer Engagement Committee

The Committee received a presentation from Executive about a novel initiative to support the identification and management of behaviours of concern to reduce workplace violence and aggression and improve staff and patient safety, and a presentation from medico-legal services.

In addition, the draft Consumer Experience and Clinical Excellence Strategy 2025 to 2030, and continuous quality improvement activities to improve safety, effectiveness, and experience of patient care were considered.

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