



NMHS Board Communiqué

February 2025

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the NMHS Board meeting held on Friday, 7 February 2025 at the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre in the Noongar Season of



Bunuru.

Bunuru (second summer / Season of Adolescence) 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

Rebecca Strom, Board Chair
Jahna Cedar OAM
Angela Edwards
Anthony Evans
Renaë Farmer
Adj Assoc Prof Karen Gullick
Angela Komninos
Assoc Prof Lewis MacKinnon

Apologies

Assoc Prof Mathew Coleman
Dr Ian Rogers

Approvals and endorsements

- NMHS Digital Strategy 2025 to 2028
- NMHS Work, Health and Safety internal audit scope
- NMHS Statement of Intent 2024/25 quarter 2 report

Visits and engagement

- Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Intensive Care Unit

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 of our community and provide learning opportunities to make our services better and safer, to deliver excellent health care.

This month, the Board heard from a carer who was concerned about care provided to a family member while they were in hospital. In recognising the complexities and challenges of providing services to persons with mental health conditions, the Board acknowledged appropriateness of care and compassion displayed in responses to the complaint.

In addition, the Board recognised the positive experience of a consumer who received care from the multi-disciplinary healthcare teams at Osborne Lodge.

Presentations to the Board

The Board welcomed three internationally recognised clinical researchers from Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital whose exceptional contributions to medical innovation are tackling real-world problems in health to deliver societal impact and shape best practice.

Clinical Professors Shirley Jansen, Gary Lee and Chan Cheah showcased their clinical trial programs and therapeutic interventions, which are improving patient experience and health outcomes, as well reducing costs. In addition, insights on their innovation journeys were shared. The inspiring session also looked at enablers of, and barriers to, creating and embedding a culture of research and innovation across the organisation.

Separately, the Board received a progress update from the Strategy and Transformation team on development of key stakeholder maps, which will support effective and enduring Board engagement, decision-making and governance activities.

Board Chair and Chief Executive update

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

Board Chair

Discussions and reflections included:

- Launch of the WA health Environmental Sustainability Strategy
- Matters of legal and regulatory compliance
- December Health Service Performance Report
- Resignation of Board member Ms Edwards and appointment of new Board Chair, Adj Assoc Prof Gullick

Chief Executive



Opening

(L-R): Adjunct Associate Professor Karen Gullick, NMHS Deputy Board Chair and Ms Rebecca Strom, NMHS Board Chair



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, 7 March 2025

Dental Services, Salter Point

This month's report included updates on:

- WA health system priorities and continued high demand for emergency services across the WA health system
- Advice about caretaker conventions
- Progress towards achieving our strategic objectives
- Progress of capital infrastructure works
- Highlights, risks, and areas of focus from each of the operational areas

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

No meeting held in January.

Finance Committee

The Committee undertook an in-depth review into the organisation's financial health. Other discussions considered reports on performance, activity, budget, and staffing trends, as well as strategies to ensure financial sustainability.

In addition, the status of priority procurements and contracts, and major capital works were noted.

People, Engagement and Culture Committee

The focus area for December was Integrity. The briefing outlined initiatives that have strengthened integrity and improved transparency of decision-making resulting in improvements in workplace culture and capability.

In addition, the Committee received an update from the Executive Director of Mental Health about culture, engagement, and well-being activities underway across the service.

Performance and compliance reports for work health and safety, staff wellbeing, as well as industrial and operational matters were also reviewed.

Safety, Quality and Consumer Engagement Committee

The Committee welcomed representatives from Joondalup Health Campus who provided an update on progress of implementing recommendations from two safety and quality reviews. The work supports a positive safety culture by fostering safe and reliable care, reducing preventable incidents, and improving patient experience and outcomes.

The Committee also reviewed the organisation's clinical performance compared to peers in several recently published internal and external clinical quality registry reports, using evidence to improve the quality of health care we provide.

The monthly consumer experience, safety and quality performance and trends were reviewed, with focus on initiatives related to continuous improvement, quality assurance and embedding a safety culture.