



Communique

October 2023 meeting of the East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS) Board

The EMHS Board meets each month to consider and decide on any matters related to its regulatory and governance function.

This Communique aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board and provides an overview of items discussed. Due to the sensitivity of items, not all are included within this Communique. Please forward it onto colleagues and employees who may be interested in its content. All Board Communiques can be accessed [via this link](#).

The meeting of the Board on 31 October 2023 was held in the Chief Executive Boardroom at Royal Perth Hospital (RPH). The meeting commenced at 11:30am and concluded at 4:00pm.

Chair's update

The Board Chair, Ms Pia Turcinov, provided an update on areas of focus during the month. Board members have enjoyed engaging with a number of teams across EMHS at events this month, including the RPH Research Symposium and 50TH anniversary celebrations for Kalamunda Hospital and RPH Emergency Department.

Chief Executive's update

Dr Lesley Bennett, EMHS A/Chief Executive, provided a summary of the current areas of focus across EMHS and WA health, including emergency reform and mental health.

Dr Bennett also provided an update on the progress of HRplus, which is planned for roll-out at Armadale Kalamunda Group (AKG) and Royal Perth Bentley Group (RPH) in 2024.

Presentations

Chairs Medical Advisory Committees

The Board welcomed Chairs - Drs PK-Loh (Bentley), Claire Italiano (RPH) and Tamsyn Williams (AKG) – to present on behalf of the site Medical Advisory Committees.

Dr Italiano discussed concerns and areas of focus for RPH, particularly noting the importance of professional development for clinicians and the challenges of providing protected teaching time due to workforce shortages.

Dr Loh provided an update on behalf of Bentley, noting current efforts to address concerns about deceased patients remaining on clinic wait lists due to delayed patient status updates in webPAS. Dr Loh also referenced workforce shortages as a concern.

Dr Williams presented on behalf of AKG, noting she is new to the role of Chair, having recently taken over from Dr Tania Strickland. Dr Williams discussed workforce challenges which are in part due to AKG's geographical location, and described initiatives being put in place to attract staff and increase wellbeing and morale.

Draft EMHS Research Strategy

EMHS Executive Director Medical Services, Dr Grant Waterer, presented the draft EMHS Research Strategy – along with EMHS Director Research and Innovation, Sharon Humphris, and Manager Research, Mark Woodman.

The new research strategy will primarily focus on key areas where EMHS can excel and become leaders in the field. It is expected the strategy will be finalised for approval by the end of Nov 2023.



Communication workshop

Feedback from the Your Voice in Health survey indicated an opportunity to explore different methods of internal communication with staff. External consultant, Marie Mills, attended the Board meeting to hear feedback from the Board about existing internal communications and ideas for change.

The Board commended the EMHS Communications Team for all their efforts facilitating communication to both internal and external stakeholders.

Care Beyond Hospital Walls Framework (CBHWF) and virtual care

Dr Grant Waterer and EMHS Executive Director Clinical Services Strategy and Population Health, Susan Mylne, presented to the Board on the CBHWF and community and virtual care services.

Dr Waterer discussed the challenges being faced by WA Health and the requirement to look at alternative future models of care outside of the hospital. EMHS has recently appointed Adam Lloyd as Area Director Community and Virtual Care, as well as a new Nursing Director.

Key approvals and endorsements

This month, the Board approved and signed the EMHS Board Code of Conduct 2023, which outlines expected EMHS Board member behaviour and incorporates requirements of the newly implemented Commissioner's Instruction 40: Foundations of Ethics.

The Board also approved an agreement between WA Treasury Corporation and EMHS related to foreign exchange transactions. The Board Chair and Chief Executive signed the agreement under common seal.

Board reports

EMHS Board received updates from AKG and RPBG.

- There was positive media coverage about the 50TH anniversary celebrations at Kalamunda Hospital (KH), held on 07 October 2023.
- There has also been very positive feedback from staff about the new Digital Medical Record (DMR), which was rolled-out at AKG this month. The Board commended the DMR Team for the successful implementation.
- RPBG celebrated the launch of the Health Justice Partnership, and also noted positive media about the partnership and event. The Enterprise medical imaging platform also went live at RPH on 14 Oct 2023.
- RPBG also provided a detailed update on mental health services and current infrastructure works.

Direct reports from the Chairs of the respective Board Committees were presented, providing an update on issues considered at their most recent meetings:

- The EMHS Board Operational Performance and Strategy Committee Chair provided an update on key metrics and areas of focus for digital, research and innovation; mental health; people and capability; and clinical services. The Chair acknowledged the vast outputs from the EMHS Data and Digital Innovation Team, and significant work being undertaken across the organisation to improve clinical service performance.
- The EMHS Board Safety and Quality Committee Chair tabled a summary of the safety and quality metrics and key areas of focus for the Committee and discussed processes and composition of Root Cause Analysis (RCA) panels.
- The EMHS Board Finance Committee Chair provided an overview of EMHS activity and financial performance for Sept 2023. In particular, the Committee and Board focused on funding and models for virtual care services.

- The Board Audit and Risk Committee Chair provided a summary of the Oct 2023 meeting.

EMHS Executive Director Safety, Quality and Consumer Engagement, Sandra Miller, provided an update on Electronic Medication Management solutions (EMMs). Procurement and installation is now complete across EMHS.

The Board also received an update from the Executive Director Corporate Services and Contract Management, Philip Aylward, on the expansion of capacity at St John of God Midland Public Hospital.

Other

Prior to the Board meeting, the Board hosted a morning tea with staff involved in the development of the EMHS Annual Report 2022-23. Deputy Chair, Dr Denise Glennon, thanked staff for their contribution.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at RPH on 28 November 2023

Pia Turcinov AM
Chair, EMHS Board

EMHS Board 2023



Elizabeth Koff

Denise Glennon

Pia Turcinov

Paddy Ramanathan

Steve Patchett

Ross Keeling

Tracey Moroney

Melissa Parke

Peter Forbes

Vanessa Elliott