



EMHS Board communique

November 2023



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The East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS) Board meets each month to consider and decide on 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 Communiqués can be accessed [via this link](#).

The meeting of the Board on **28 Nov 2023** was held in the Chief Executive Boardroom at Royal Perth Hospital (RPH). The meeting commenced at 11:00am and concluded at 4:15pm.

Chair's report – Pia Turcinov

- The Board congratulated Dr Lesley Bennett on her substantive appointment as EMHS Chief Executive.
- On 01 Nov 2023, the Minister for Health, Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson, visited Kalamunda Hospital to tour the facility upgrades. This was a very positive visit.
- On 14 Nov 2023, Ms Turcinov visited St John of God Midland Public Hospital with EMHS Chief Executive, Dr Lesley Bennett, and EMHS Executive Director Corporate Services and Contract Management, Philip Aylward.
- Ms Turcinov provided an overview of the Challenge, which is a WA government-led global challenge for a medical research/innovative solution to resolve a problem of health service delivery in the Pilbara region.
- EMHS Board Deputy Chair, Dr Denise Glennon, will be A/Chair from 03-10 Dec 2023 and 12 Dec 2023 to 20 Jan 2024 while Ms Turcinov takes a leave of absence.

Chief Executive's report – Dr Lesley Bennett

- There has been an increase in COVID in the community, with the Chief Medical Officer instructing for masks to be worn in high-risk areas. The increase has impacted staffing levels.
- The EMHS Area Executive Group had a presentation from a gastroenterologist from Kings in London, around sustainability and green practices. EMHS will continue to look at sustainable practices from a strategic perspective in 2024, in line with [EMHS' Environment, Social, Governance \(ESG\) position statement](#).



Presentations

Nurse Unit Managers (NUMs)

- The Board welcomed NUMs from Royal Perth Bentley Group (RPBG) (5H, 9C, outpatients, elective waitlist / pre-admission clinics) and Armadale Kalamunda Group (AKG) (mental health).
- The NUMs provided an update to the Board on challenges in their respective areas, while also celebrating some key initiatives and achievements, including:
 - further implementation of Telehealth
 - introduction of graduate and patient liaison nurses in outpatient clinics
 - implementation of the digital medical record (AKG)
 - Implementation of the new Crisis Resolution Home Treatment Team.

Allied health

- The Board welcomed EMHS A/Area Director Allied Health, Carla Francis, and AKG Director Allied Health and Ambulatory Care, Danielle Kilmurray, to present on behalf of allied health. Carla and Danielle acknowledged Director Allied Health and Outpatient Services at St John of God Midland Public Hospital, who also provided input for the presentation.
- The Board were provided with an overview of allied health strategic priorities in line with EMHS goals, including advanced scope physiotherapy, multi-disciplinary allied health assistant / alternative workforce, partnerships with universities for final year students and graduate support, community-based programs, allied health-first models of care, and prehabilitation services.

Ashurst Lawyers – work health and safety obligations

- Julia Sutherland (Partner, Ashurst Lawyers) provided a legal briefing to the Board on work health and safety obligations, including a refresher on legislation and key duties / due diligence of EMHS and officers.
- Primary take-aways from the presentation were – EMHS owes a duty to all workers, including contractors; Duty is owed where a worker performs work in EMHS' business; Officers owe a proactive duty everyday; An officer's role is to check that the Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) is complying with its duties; Officers should apply an inquiring mind when considering the effectiveness of risk control.





Other items

Site updates

- AKG continue to embed digital medical record processes and have shared learnings from the roll-out with RPBG.
- The Board discussed workforce challenges at AKG and potential alternative models of care.
- RPBG challenges have included increased Emergency Department demand, Theatre constraints at Bentley Hospital, accommodation shortages, violence and aggression, and impacts of increased COVID in the community.

Board Committee reports

- The Board discussed reports from the Chairs of the Board Safety & Quality, and Finance Committees.
- The Safety & Quality Committee had discussed engagement with Aboriginal patients – which will be further discussed with the Area Director Aboriginal Health, Francine Eades, at the Board Operational Performance & Strategy Committee meeting on 13 Dec 2023.
- The Board Finance Committee Chair, Peter Forbes, discussed the Department of Health's focus on system-wide approach to risk, which will continue to be progressed in 2024.
- The Board discussed updates on EMHS major capital projects, including the RPH Emergency Department, Byford Health Hub, the Secure Extended Care Unit (SECU), Bentley Surgicentre, and the RPH Medical Day Unit.

Approvals and endorsements

The Board:

- ✓ Commended and approved the [EMHS Research Strategy 2024-2028](#).
- ✓ Approved the Board Chair's leave from 03-10 Dec 2023 and 12 Dec 2023 to 20 Jan 2024.
- ✓ Endorsed/approved a number of EMHS business cases for submission to government for consideration.

