



EMHS Board communique

February 2024



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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 Communiques can be accessed [via this link](#).

The first Board meeting of 2024 was held on **20 February 2024** in the Chief Executive's Boardroom, Royal Perth Hospital..

Chair's report – Ms Pia Turcinov

Ms Turcinov provided an update on significant items of discussion this month, including potential options for developing a 'complementary workforce' and improvements in emergency access.

The Board discussed the upcoming visit by the Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, Minister for Health and Mental Health, who will visit with the EMHS Board in March 2024.

Ms Turcinov provided an overview of an informative webinar she attended on the WA Health Sector Adaptation Plan for climate adaptation.



A/Chief Executive's report – Ms Sandra Miller

Ms Miller provided an update on key matters, including:

- EMHS has again been shortlisted for the WS Lonnie awards for public sector Annual Reports.
- While COVID heavily impacted staff at the end of 2023, this is now returning to normal (declined rates in staff and the community). The Chief Medical Officer has relaxed mask wearing in hospitals.
- The Minister for Health and the Premier thanked EMHS for hosting the recent launch of the Patient Transport Coordination Hub (PaTCH).
- EMHS People, Culture and Capability, and the Office of the Chief Executive are developing an action plan based on recommendations from a review of EMHS internal communications.
- A comprehensive Environment and Sustainability Strategy has been developed by EMHS.





Presentations and discussions

Meeting with the Director General, Department of Health

- Dr David Russell-Weisz, the Director General, Department of Health, attended the meeting, enabling the Board to engage in a broader discussion as to current challenges and opportunities at EMHS. The Director General congratulated EMHS on its continued good performance, acknowledging how EMHS has grown and developed since establishment. The Board thanked the Director General for his support during his tenure, noting he will be retiring at the end of March 2024.

Insurance Commission of WA

- The Board welcomed representatives from the Insurance Commission of WA (ICWA) to the meeting to present on EMHS' insurance claims and premiums.
- ICWA and the Board discussed workers' compensation, how premiums are calculated, and current claims trends.
- ICWA is working closely with EMHS to review prior medical treatment liability claims and identify lessons learnt and areas for improvement. The good working relationship and engagement between ICWA and EMHS was noted and commended.

Board engagement opportunities

- The Board discussed options for engaging with staff outside of Board meetings, including possible Q & A sessions and morning/afternoon teas throughout the year.
- The Board Safety & Quality Committee are investigating opportunities for consumer representation at a Committee level.





Other items

Site updates

The Executive Director Royal Perth Bentley Group (RPBG), Mr Ben Noteboom, provided an update on RPBG matters this month, including:

- Continued focus on improving emergency access.
- COVID leave has settled post-end of 2023 and is returning to normal levels.
- RPBG is making gains in surgical capacity, with increased theatre capacity.
- The Board requested trends in feedback about outpatient services be incorporated in the RPBG update next month.

The Executive Director Armadale Kalamunda Group, Mr Neil Cowan, thanked staff and the Board for their support during recent electrical outages and credited the achievement of everyone involved.

The Executive Director Corporate Services and Contract Management, Mr Philip Aylward, provided an update on procurement and contract management, including for St John of God Midland Public Hospital.

Board Committee reports

The Board discussed reports from the Chairs of the Board Safety & Quality, Board Audit and Risk, and Board Finance Committees.

- Safety and Quality:
 - It was noted that the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office (HaDSCO) were complimentary of the quality of EMHS' responses to patient complaints.
 - EMHS has developed a Lived Experience Strategy project plan for the development of an EMHS Lived Experience Mental Health Strategy and Peer Support Workforce guideline.
- Audit and Risk:
 - EMHS continues to make pleasing progress in the cyber security space.
 - Compulsory new Global Internal Auditing Standards will come into effect from January 2025.



The next EMHS Board will be held at Royal Perth Hospital in March 2024.