



# NMHS Board Communiqué

May 2025

*This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations of the NMHS Board meeting held on Friday, 2 May 2025 at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Nedlands, in the Noongar Season of Djeran.*



*Djeran sees a break in the really hot weather, being marked by cooler nights, dewy mornings and the falling of leaves.*

## Board members present

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

## Apologies

Jahna Cedar OAM  
Assoc Prof Mathew Coleman  
Anthony Evans

## Approvals and endorsements

- 2024/25 quarter 3 Statement of Intent Report
- 2024/25 Service Agreement Deed of Variation 1 for the provision of mental health services
- Service Agreement to employ additional medical interns
- Financial accounting and reporting requirements

## Events and achievements

- Launch of the NMHS Digital Health Strategy

## Visits and engagement

## 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 about a patient's psychological distress following poor clinical communication during discharge. The Board welcomed the organisation's approach to reassure the consumer, and reflected on the importance of effective patient-centred communication, which is essential to ensuring safe, continuous care.

In addition, the Board acknowledged the expression of appreciation and gratitude by a patient with a life-limiting illness to the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Palliative Care team.

## Presentations to the Board

The Board received a presentation from Corporate Nursing about research being undertaken to strengthen the senior nursing workforce, which plays a pivotal role in delivering quality care and meeting the diverse healthcare needs of our community. The team shared the range of challenges influencing workforce advancement and retention, as well as potential strategies and initiatives to provide a roadmap to build a sustainable, future-focussed nursing workforce.

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:

- Matters of legal and regulatory compliance
- March Health Service Performance Report
- Next steps to progress recommendations arising from the recent governance effectiveness review
- The North Danjoo Yacker speaker series and other cultural and engagement activities for May

## Chief Executive



- Neurological Intervention and Imaging Service of WA
- Breast Centre



**International Year of the Midwife (8 May 2025)**  
(L-R): Dr Sue Sinni, Director Midwifery and Nursing, Women and Newborn Health Service (WNHS); Alisha Thompson, A/Executive Director Armadale Kalamunda Group; Adjunct Associate Professor Karen Gullick, Board Chair; Dr Zoe Bradfield, Associate Professor of Midwifery WNHS; Robert Toms, NMHS Chief Executive



Adj Assoc Prof Karen Gullick  
**BOARD CHAIR, NMHS**

-  [NMHS.BoardSecretariat@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:NMHS.BoardSecretariat@health.wa.gov.au)
-  [Our Board and communiques](#)
- [Minister for Health's Statement of Expectations](#)
-  [NMHS's Statement of Intent](#)

### Next Board meeting

Friday, 6 June 2025  
Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre,  
Nedlands

This month's report included updates on:

- WA health system priorities
- Winter planning
- Operational performance
- Progress of capital infrastructure works
- Performance against the NMHS strategic objectives
- 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 April

#### Finance Committee

The Committee received its regular update on performance and activity from the Mental Health Services and Dental Health Services. In addition, it considered financial regulatory matters and reviewed the status of strategic risks.

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

#### People, Engagement and Culture Committee

This month's focus was Work Health and Safety.

The Committee received a briefing from the newly expanded Public Health and Clinical Excellence directorate about culture and engagement activities underway across its portfolio. In addition, the Committee received an update on the inter-disciplinary Behavioural Evaluation Response Team, which has been established to manage challenging behaviours and support staff and vulnerable patients. Progress of initiatives to transform the organisation and make 'NMHS the best place to work' were outlined.

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

#### Safety, Quality and Consumer Engagement Committee

The Committee welcomed the WA Gynaecological Cancer Service Survivorship Clinic, which provided an overview of the service with focus on safety and quality and highlighted the uniqueness of the service in providing holistic, multi-disciplinary care to survivors of cancer.

The Committee also received a presentation from the Department of Health's Clinical Excellence Division about how to display data in a meaningful way to inform decision-making and provide assurance.

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