



NMHS Board Communiqué

April 2025

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations of the NMHS Board meeting held on Friday, 4 April 2025 at King Edward Memorial Hospital, Subiaco, 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
Jahna Cedar OAM
Assoc Prof Mathew Coleman
Anthony Evans
Renae Farmer
Angela Komninos
Assoc Prof Lewis MacKinnon

Apologies

Dr Ian Rogers

Approvals and endorsements

- NMHS Board Risk Appetite Statement
- NMHS Internal Audit Charter

Visits and engagement

- New Induction Labour Clinic
- Hospital Sterile Service Department
- Sir Charles Gairdner Clinical Association Executive Committee

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 mother-to-be who was concerned about aspects of care received during antenatal visits. The Board commended the empathy displayed in response to the complaint, and welcomed planned quality improvement activities by the Women and Newborn Health Service.

In addition, the Board recognised the positive experiences of a new mother who highlighted the exceptional care and support she and her baby received from midwives and special care nursery staff.

Presentations to the Board

The Board welcomed In-house General Counsel who provided an overview of the breadth of services and functions offered by the newly established Office of General Counsel. The Board heard about the range of expertise and resources available to support it in meeting its legal and regulatory compliance obligations. In addition, General Counsel highlighted links with other business areas, which help to maintain the organisation's objectives and good corporate governance.

The Board was also briefed on the results of its recent externally facilitated evaluation of Board and Director performance. The Board welcomed observations it was well-functioning, with a strong dynamic and mature governance processes. Continuous improvement opportunities will be explored to further strengthen best practice corporate governance.

Board Chair and Chief Executive update

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

Board Chair

Discussions and reflections included:

- Changes to Board Committee membership
- Engagement activities
- Matters of legal and regulatory compliance
- January Health Service Performance Report

Chief Executive

This month's report included updates on:



Adj Assoc Prof Karen Gullick

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, 2 May 2025

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
QEII Medical Centre, Nedlands

- Lifting of caretaker conventions, new Government Ministry, and establishment of the Health Coordination of Cabinet Committee
- Progress of its 2025 strategic priorities work plan
- Demand optimisation initiatives to meet ongoing high demand for emergency, elective surgery and outpatient services
- Operational performance
- 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

The Committee reviewed the organisation's strategic risks and Board Risk Appetite following a refresh of the NMHS Strategic Plan 2024 to 2028.

In addition, the Committee was briefed on findings from the mandated Public Sector Commission's self-assessment of integrity maturity and ongoing activities to promote integrity and prevent misconduct.

Reports on legislative and regulatory compliance, assurance, and risk obligations, as well as the progress of internal and external audits were also tabled.

Finance Committee

The Committee received its regular update on performance and activity from the Mental Health Service and Dental Health Service, as well as the contract management report.

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

People, Engagement and Culture Committee

No meeting held in March.

Safety, Quality and Consumer Engagement Committee

The Committee welcomed the team from the Adult Mental Health Service, which provided an overview of the service with focus on safety and quality.

In addition, the Committee received an update on public health initiatives and discussed accreditation readiness of clinical services against the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Standards.

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.