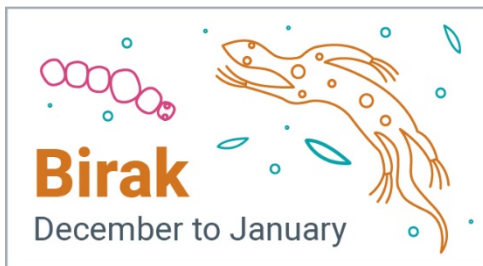




# NMHS Board Communiqué

**December 2025**

*This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations of the NMHS Board meeting held on Friday, 6 December 2025 at the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre in the Noongar Season of Birak.*



*Birak is the first summer (season of the young), which sees the rain ease and the warm weather really start to take hold. The afternoons are cooled by sea breeze from the south-west: traditionally this was the fire season.*

## Board members present

Adj Assoc Prof Karen Gullick, Board Chair  
Jahna Cedar OAM  
Assoc Prof Mathew Coleman  
Renae Farmer  
Assoc Prof Lewis MacKinnon  
Dr Ian Rogers  
Rebecca Strom

## Apologies

Anthony Evans, Deputy Board Chair  
Angela Komninos

## Approvals and endorsements

- Board Finance Committee Terms of Reference

## Visits and engagement

- North Space Leadership Forum
- Joint Board and North Executive Team professional networking event
- Staff Christmas / end of year events (various sites)

## Our Community and Our People: embedding our values

Reflections on consumer feedback and insights, as they relate to the NMHS values and patient-centred care, are a regular focus for the Board. This month the Board heard stories from consumers who shared their experiences of adult Mental Health Services. The Board acknowledged the challenges of, and barriers to, providing care to vulnerable members of the community, and noted appreciation by a consumer who was accepted into, and successfully completed, the Start Court Program.

## Presentations to the Board

The Board received a briefing on progress to transition the WA Metropolitan Psychiatry Training program to a joint undertaking between the Department of Health and clinical health service providers. The revised model, which will grow and enhance the capability of the workforce, will improve the quality and accessibility of the mental health system.

The Board also received an update on review of the organisation's operating model, which is being refined to support strategy execution, increase operational performance and efficiency, and respond to the rapidly changing healthcare landscape.

The Board considered the inaugural draft NMHS Research and Innovation Strategy and Action Plan, which will provide a roadmap for 2026 to 20230 to support the NMHS Strategic Plan's objective 'to grow and amplify our innovation and research capabilities to improve the health and wellbeing of our community'.

## Board Chair and Chief Executive update

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

## Board Chair

Discussions and reflections included:

- Outcomes from recent key stakeholder meetings
- Implications of the New Aged Care Act
- Bush fire preparedness for the site due to proximity to Kings Park
- Continuing professional development

## Chief Executive

This month's report included updates on:

- Providing accessible, safe, high-quality care, which is delivered in a sustainable and personalised way

## Events and achievements

- WA Health Excellence Awards
  - **7News Health Hero:** Sue Morey Nurse Practitioner Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group (SCGOPHCG)
  - **Excellence in Person-Centred Care:** Clinician Awareness and Response Enhancement for Family and Domestic Violence, SCGOPHCG
  - **Excellence in Mental Health:** Youth Hospital in the home, Mental Health Services
  - **Excellence in Primary Health Care Integration:** Complex Care Team, Women and Newborn Health Service (WNHS)
  - **Excellent in Workplace Wellbeing and Culture:** Women's Health Strategy and Programs, WNHS
  - **Excellence in Preventive Care:** Hepatitis C Elimination Drive in Perth, Public Health and Clinical Excellence



WA Health Excellence Awards 2025 winners - NMHS



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 February 2026  
Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre,  
Nedlands

- Progress of several major capital works projects at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, including expansion of the Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit
- Progress of maintenance and minor building works under the State Government's targeted Health Asset Maintenance Fund
- 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 received a briefing on adoption of AI initiatives, which currently focus on automation and machine learning, to free up time for patient care and improve operational efficiency.

In addition, the Committee received an update on activities to build and strengthen the compliance function, and assurance on the quality and effectiveness of the internal audit function.

Reports on legislative and regulatory compliance, assurance, governance, 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 Public Health and Dental Services directorate, as well as a budget update from the People and Culture Directorate. The Committee also reviewed its Terms of Reference and considered the status of strategic risks.

In addition, the status of priority procurements and contracts, and major capital works were noted.

Reports and discussions, 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 November.

### Safety, Quality and Consumer Engagement Committee

The Committee received a presentation from the Breastfeeding Centre WA, located at King Edward Memorial Hospital, which provides breastfeeding information, education and support for families and health professionals across the State. In addition, the Women and Newborn Health Service provided an update on safety and quality performance.

The Committee heard about ongoing expansion of the Youth Detention Neurodevelopmental and Mental Health Program at the Banksia Hill Detention Centre, which provides specialised care for young people with complex needs.

The Committee considered advice concerning preparedness for short notice accreditation against the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Standards, and policy compliance.

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



