



NMHS Board Communiqué

September 2026

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations of the NMHS Board meeting held on Friday, 4 September 2026 at Osborne Park Hospital, Stirling, in the Noongar Season of Djilba.



Djilba (first spring) is a transitional time of the year, with some very cold and clear days combining with warmer, rainy and windy days mixing with the occasional sunny day or two.

Board members present

Adj Assoc Prof Karen Gullick, Board Chair
Jahna Cedar OAM
Assoc Prof Mathew Coleman
Anthony Evans
Renaë Farmer
Anthony Hume
Angela Komninos
Andrea LeGuier
Assoc Prof Lewis MacKinnon
Dr Ian Rogers

Approvals and endorsements

- NMHS Annual Report 2026
- Australian Health Service Safety and Quality Accreditation Scheme Governing Body Attestation Statements
- Annual Board Committee work plan

Events and achievements

- Opening of new Breastscreen WA Clinic, Bunbury
- 50th Anniversary of the School Dental Service

Safety moment

The Board introduced a safety moment at the start of the meeting as part of its ongoing commitment to work health and safety. It shared a safety moment from Geriatric, Acute and Rehabilitation Medicine on managing patients with behaviours of concern, and acknowledged the importance of supporting staff, maintaining a safe workplace and providing person-centred care.

Consumer Reflection stories

The Board considered recent consumer feedback to the Department of Rehabilitation and HomeLink in the Speciality and Ambulatory Services Division, and reflected on the valuable insights into consumer experiences it provides in supporting continuous improvement and making our services better and safer, to deliver excellent health care.

Presentations to the Board

The Board received a Work Health and Safety internal briefing on progress to implement audit recommendations, including actions to strengthen assurance activities, systems and processes that support effective workplace health and safety oversight.

In addition, plans to refresh the NMHS Strategic Plan and the annual population profile for the NMHS catchment were presented.

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
- Board Committee appointments
- Evaluation of Board governance effectiveness

Chief Executive

This month's report included updates on:

- Progress of the new Operating Model, which will support a more contemporary system-oriented focus
- Bethesda Mount Hospital
- Progress of the capital infrastructure portfolio
- Performance, including access to emergency, elective surgery, and outpatient program services
- Highlights, risks, and areas of focus from each of the operational areas

Visits and engagement

- Board tours, Osborne Park Hospital:
 - Older Adult Hub
 - Geriatric, Acute and Rehabilitation Medicine (Ward 3)



Adj Assoc Prof Karen Gullick
BOARD CHAIR, NMHS

NMHS.Board@health.wa.gov.au



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[Minister for Health's Statement of Expectations](#)
[NMHS's Statement of Intent](#)

Next Board meeting

Friday, 2 October 2026
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Nedlands

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 August.

Finance Committee

No meeting held in August.

People, Engagement and Culture Committee

This month's focus was Aboriginal Employment.

The Committee received updates on initiatives to proactively manage talent acquisition and career development opportunities for Aboriginal people as well as culture and engagement activities by the Women and Newborn Health Service.

The Committee was briefed on the coordinated approach to support the health and wellbeing of our doctors during their training and across their professional careers, welcoming results of the 2026 Junior Doctors Hospital Health Check survey in which the NMHS performed strongly and remained a preferred employer.

In addition, the Committee noted progress in delivering the Climate and Sustainability Program, which supports the organisation's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint, operating more sustainably and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Performance and compliance reports for work health and safety, staff wellbeing, as well as progress of initiatives to transform the organisation and make 'NMHS the best place to work' were reviewed.

Safety, Quality and Consumer Engagement Committee

The Committee welcomed members from Joondalup Health Campus who shared progress about how the organisation has adapted its workflows in the Emergency Department to better safeguard and fast-track young patients following coronial feedback and major public hospital expansion.

In addition, the Committee reflected on findings from two independent reviews of maternity and neonatal services by the National Health Service and applicable learnings for the organisation.

The Committee also discussed accreditation of clinical services against the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Standards and the new *National Model for Clinical Governance*, which will strengthen culture, systems and structures to support staff in delivering high-quality care.

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.