

## Sydney Local Health District

### Meeting One Hundred and Fifty-Nine of the Board

Date: Monday 16 June 2025  
Time: 08:30 – 11.00am  
Venue: Boardroom KGV Building/ Teams  
Chair: Adjunct Professor Karen Crawshaw PSM

#### 1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair conducted Acknowledgment of Country.

#### 2. Welcome / Present / Apologies

##### Present

Adjunct Professor Karen Crawshaw PSM, Chair  
Ms Deb Willcox AM, Chief Executive  
Ms Ronwyn North, Member  
Mr Richard Acheson, Member  
Mr Rob Furolo, Member  
Mr Raymond Dib, Member  
Dr Mary Haines, Member  
Dr Alicja Smiech, Chair, Medical Staff Executive Council  
Ms LaVerne Belleair, Member  
The Hon. Carmel Tebbutt, Member

##### Apologies

Dr John Sammut, Member

##### In attendance

Dr Andrew Hallahan, Executive Director Medical Services Clinical Governance and Risk, SLHD  
Mr Joseph Jewitt, A/Chief of Staff, Office of the Chief Executive  
Dr Genevieve Wallace, Executive Director of Operations, SLHD  
Mr Puneet Datta, Executive Director of Finance, SLHD  
Ms Ivanka Komusanac, Executive Director Nursing and Midwifery, SLHD  
Ms Zoe Hassoun, Secretariat  
Ms Lexie O'Connor, Graduate Health Management Trainee  
Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer – Guest  
Mr Ned Latham, Medical Advisor – Office of the Dep Secretary- Guest  
Ms Caroline Sharpe, Senior Medical Advisor- Office of the Deputy Secretary- Guest  
Dr Andrew McDonald, Clinical Director, MH SLHD – Guest  
Mt Steven Wood, General Manager, MH Services SLHD – Guest  
Ms Paula Willisroft, Executive Director People and Culture, SLHD - Guest

### 3. Declaration / Removal of conflicts of interest

The Chair advised to declare / remove any conflicts of interest at this meeting.

Dr Mary Haines advised the Board of her new appointment to Environment Protection Agency Board.

### Confirmation of previous minutes

#### 4.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Amendment to the minutes of the meeting held 19 May 2025, once amended, will be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

In Legal Matters - should read "handling the interactions with NSW Senior Medical Staff".

### 5. Actions arising from previous meeting

#### 5.1 Action Sheet

The Board received, read and noted the items on the action sheet.

### 6. Presentation:

#### **6.1 The Shift in Approach to Managing Population Health Priorities - NSW Health Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health Dr Kerry Chant.**

The Chief Health Officer provided an update on:

- The significant impact of modifiable risk factors on the overall burden of disease and the critical role of prevention in improving health outcomes.
- A new prevention-focused framework incorporated into Service Level Agreements, whereby Local Health Districts are to select up to three priority areas to target over a four-year period.
- Sydney Local Health district has chosen Diabetes and Immunisation as focus areas.
- Management to present the complete Action Plan to the Board once it's finalised.

### 7 Patient Story

**Ange Ryan – Lived Experience Educator provided an update on:**

- Ange Ryan, Lived Experience Educator, shared her journey through three significant stages. She began by recounting her time as a patient in the maternity ward, where the compassionate care provided by a nurse left a lasting impression on both her and her husband. She then spoke of her experience as a carer for a family member, highlighting the dedication of individual staff as well as the challenges families encounter when navigating complex healthcare systems. Finally, Ange described her current role as a

Lived Experience Educator, where she uses her personal experiences to inform and support the training and development of healthcare staff across the district.

## 8. Matters for Approval / Resolution

### 8.1 Mental Health Update- Psychiatry

The Board Chair thanked the Clinical Director and General Manager, Mental Health Services, for their leadership in addressing the psychiatry matter. The Board expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the Mental Health Executive team and acknowledged the value they bring to the organisation.

#### **Clinical Director of Mental Health (MH) Services provided the following update:**

- Reassured the Board that the strategic actions are aligned with the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. These include enhancing Community Health Mental Health Services, upgrading and expanding the acute care service capacity and delivering a 42 bed forensic unit.
- Mental Health Executives have identified their top 10 risks and have reformed their approach to risk management, this is overseen by Executive Strategy and Operations Committee.
- Workforce has been identified as the fourth top risk due to the continuance of industrial action. Key strategies for recruitment approach are considering temporary and permanent options for senior medical staff and engaging agency locums.
- The Director of Training, Dr Jean Starling, has worked very hard to ensure that all Junior Medical Officers (JMOs) receive adequate supervision.
- The Board acknowledged Dr Jean Starling for her dedicated work with the trainees and expressed their sincere appreciation and gratitude for her significant contributions.
- The MH Executives have created a new JMO Manager Role to support all recruitment, retention and leave matters.
- Long stay Performance has improved due to direct presentation to MH facilities.
- Seclusion and restraint rates are trending down or remain below the key performance indicators. However, the duration of episodes has increased slightly, attributed to ongoing industrial issues. The Mental Health Behaviours of Concern team continues to play a key role in supporting de-escalation efforts.

## 9. Chair's Report

The Board Chair provided a verbal update including:

- The Board Chair attended Sorry Day event at Concord.
- Attended the Sydney Biomedical Accelerator Sod turning event at the University of Sydney and is actively working to address governance matters between the partner organisations.
- The Board Chair will attend Board Chairs meeting scheduled for the 30 June 2025.

## 10. Standing Items

## 10.1 Chief Executive

The Board received, read and noted this report. The following is noted:

### SLHD Performance

The Board **noted** that the district's performance continues to perform at level 1.

### Concord Medical Staff Council and AGM

No new nomination for the Chair of the Medical Staff Council. The current Chair will be seeking an extension from the Chief Executive.

### Surgical Waitlist Times

There was press coverage on Surgical Waitlist times. Chief Executive to discuss the matter with Media Team. This matter was discussed extensively in the Finance and Performance Board Subcommittee meeting.

## 10.2 Finance

The Board received, read and noted this report.

## 10.3 Operations

The Board received, read and noted this report.

## 10.4 Safety and Quality and Medical Services

The Board received, read and noted this report.

## 10.5 Medical

The Board received, read and noted this report.

## 10.6 Nursing

The Board received, read and noted this report.

## 10.7 Facility Reports - General Managers

The Board received, read and noted these reports.

## 10.8 Selected Performance Indicators – April 2025

The Board received, read and noted this report.

## 10.9 Workforce (Quarterly)

The Board noted the report will be tabled in the July Board meeting.

## **10.10 Digital Health and Innovations (Quarterly)**

The Board received, read and noted this report.

## **10.11 Capital Infrastructure and Engineering (Quarterly)**

The Board noted the report will be tabled in the August Board meeting.

## **10.12 Risk Management (Quarterly)**

The Board noted the report will be tabled in the July Board meeting.

## **10.13 Detailed Asset Management Report (Quarterly)**

The Board noted the report will be tabled in the August Board meeting.

## **10.14 Detailed Cyber Security Report (Six Monthly)**

The Board noted the report will be tabled in the September Board meeting.

## **11. Legal Matters**

The Board received, read and noted this report.

The Board Chair requested an In Camera Session for the sensitive legal matters for the Chief Executive and Board members to discuss.

## **12. Board Committee reports / minutes**

### **12.1 Finance and Performance Management Committee**

The Board received, read and noted the minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2025

### **12.2 Research Board Subcommittee**

The Board received, read and noted the minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2025. Board member Mr Richard Acheson noted an inaccuracy of the Terms of Reference Professors Roger Garcia and Stephen Twigg never left the committee and remained members.

### **12.3 Audit and Risk Committee**

The Board received, read and noted the minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2025

### **12.4 Patient Safety and Quality Board Subcommittee**

The Board received, read and noted the minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2025

### **12.5 People and Culture Board Subcommittee**

The Board noted the next meeting is to be held on the 16 June 2025

## **12.6 SLHD Clinical Council**

The Board received, read and noted the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2025

## **12.7 Medical Staff Executive Council**

The Board received, read and noted the minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2025

## **12.8 SLHD Consumer and Community Advisory Council (bi-monthly)**

The Board received, read and noted the minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2025

## **12.9 Aboriginal Health Steering Committee (bi-monthly)**

The Board received, read and noted the minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2025

## **13. Matters for Noting**

### **13.1 Sustainability Committee (bi-monthly)**

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on the 25 March 2025.

### **13.2 Medical and Dental Appointments Advisory Committee**

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2025

### **13.3 Finance Leaders Forum**

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2025

### **13.4 NSW Health / SLHD Performance Review Meeting**

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2025

### **13.5 Organ Donation for Transplantation**

The Board noted the next meeting will be held on the 24 June 2025

### **13.6 Major Procurement, Assets and Imaging Steering Committee**

The Board noted the next meeting is to be advised.

### **13.7 Yaralla Estate Community Advisory Committee (quarterly)**

The Board noted the next meeting will be held on the 15 July 2025

### **13.8 Security and Violence Prevention Committee**

The Board noted the next meeting is to be advised.

### **13.9 SLHD Board Presentation Schedule**

The Board noted the schedule and was placed in the reading room.

#### 14. Business without Notice

The Board Chair noted she signed off on the Lifehouse Service Level Agreement for 2024/2025. The Chair advised that in future any documents of this nature will need to be presented to the Board to review.

A matter was raised regarding the attendance of the Executive Director People and Culture at Board meetings. It was agreed that the Executive Director will attend meetings on an as-needed basis.

#### 15. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 21 July 2025 at 8.30am at Balmain Hospital.

The Chair declared the Board Meeting closed at 11.07am.



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Board Chair, SHLD

Date: 21.7.25

