

Sydney Local Health District

Meeting One Hundred and Sixty- six of the Board

Date: Monday 16 February 2026
Time: 08:45 -11.15am
Venue: Canterbury Hospital Lecture Theatres 1,2 and 3/ MS Teams (per calendar invite)
Chair: Ms Karen Crawshaw PSM, Chair

1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair conducted Acknowledgment of Country.

2. Welcome / Present / Apologies

Present

Ms Karen Crawshaw PSM, Chair
Dr Mary Haines, Deputy Chair
Ms Ronwyn North, Member
Mr Richard Acheson, Member
Mr Rob Furolo, Member
Ms LaVerne Belleair, Member
Mr Raymond Dib, Member
The Hon. Carmel Tebbutt, Member
Dr John Sammut, Member

In attendance

Ms Deb Willcox AM, Chief Executive, SLHD
Dr Genevieve Wallace, Executive Director of Operations, SLHD
Dr Andrew Hallahan, Executive Director Medical Services Clinical Governance and Risk, SLHD
Mr Puneet Datta, Executive Director of Finance, SLHD
Ms Ivanka Komusanac, Executive Director Nursing and Midwifery, SLHD
Ms Zoe Hassoun, Executive Officer to the Chief Executive and Board Secretariat, SLHD
Mr Joseph Jewitt, Director, Office of the Chief Executive
Mr David Norwood, Chief Information Officer, Director Digital Health & Innovation (Presenter)
Dr Angus Ritchie, Clinical Director Digital Health and Single Digital Patient Record (Presenter)
Mr Steven Wood, General Manager Mental Health Service SLHD (Presenter)
Dr Andrew McDonald, Clinical Director Mental Health Service SLHD (Presenter)
Dr Fiona McGregor, Director of Mental Health Forensic Unit (Presenter)
Ms Anna Gittens, Facility Planner (Presenter)
Mr Sean Evans, Director of Nursing Mental Health (Presenter)
Ms Leticia Jackson, Clinical Nurse Consultant Canterbury Hospital (Guest item 7.1)
Ms Cathie Spiker, Director Clinical Governance & Risk, Canterbury Hospital (Guest item 7.1)

Apologies

No apologies noted.

3. Declaration / Removal of conflicts of interest

The Chair advised members and staff in attendance to declare / remove any conflicts of interest at this meeting. There were no additional new conflicts of interest to declare or to be added/removed in the Register for this meeting.

The Board Chair advised that she is allowing her academic appointment to lapse at the end of February 2026.

4 Presentations

4.1 Single Digital Patient Record

The Board received, read and noted the presentation.

The Chief Information Officer, Director Digital Health & Innovation and Clinical Director, Digital Health and Single Digital Patient Record reported the following:

- The Single Digital Patient Record (SDPR) program is SLHD's preparatory program for the implementation of the statewide SDPR. This program is a significant district-wide transformation to standardise systems, enhance mobility for staff, deliver a comprehensive patient portal, and improve integration with primary care.
- SLHD is progressing through significant readiness activities, including audits, strategic planning, establishing program governance, data preparation, and workforce transformation—supported by a detailed implementation timeline and a new governance structure incorporating six SDPR clinical committees.
- Next steps include finalising program governance, endorsing the SDPR Strategic Plan, confirming program resourcing, and continuing extensive audits and readiness work to enable implementation.

4.2 Burudyara Mental Health Forensic Facility

The Board received, read and noted the presentation.

The General Manager, Clinical Director SLHD Mental Health, Director Burudyara, Facility Planner and Director of Nursing Mental Health Service reported the following:

- The service will provide 42 forensic rehabilitation beds, with medium secure beds opening in March 2026 and low secure beds from July 2026.
- The admission criteria to the Unit, model of care and clinical pathways
- The Board viewed a video presentation of the unit and the design concept was explained by the Planning Manager.
- Recruitment to allied health, aboriginal health and medical staff for the new service is underway.

5 Confirmation of previous minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 15 December 2025 have been accepted as true and accurate record of the meeting.

6 Actions arising from Previous Meeting

6.1 Action List

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

6.1.1 Brief – Revision of Contract between HERDU and SLHD

The Board received, read and noted the brief.

6.1.2 Brief Ambulatory Care Business Unit

The Board received, read and noted the brief.

The Board requested an update on this matter before the next meeting with RPA Clinical Council and Medical Staff Council.

6.1.3 Brief RPA Radiology

The Board received, read and noted the brief.

7 Patient Story

The Board received, read and noted the presentation.

Leticia Jackson, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Gumnut Ward shared the following:

A high school student presented to Canterbury Hospital in June 2025 with severe medical and psychological complications from an eating disorder, following a traumatic prior admission at another LHD hospital. Medically unstable on arrival, the patient required a five-week stay in the paediatric ward with nasogastric feeding, intensive monitoring, and multidisciplinary care. The case highlighted limited local expertise in eating disorder management and reinforced the need for coordinated multi-disciplinary team (MDT) involvement, strong SLHD policy support, and cross-district collaboration. The patient engaged well, achieved a 5kg weight gain, and was discharged with follow-up at an eating disorders clinic. Key lessons included the collaborative way different disciplines came together enabling effective MDT communication, importance of parental involvement, implementation of specialised training, and clear care coordination for this complex case.

8. Matters for Approval / Resolution

8.1 SLHD Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Strategy – For endorsement

The Board received, read and noted the plan. The document was endorsed by the Board

8.2 SLHD Precision Medicine Strategic Plan – For endorsement

The Board received, read and noted the Plan. The document was endorsed by the Board

8.3 Mental Health Service Strategic Research Plan – For endorsement

The Board received, read and noted the Plan. The document was endorsed by the Board

9. Chair's Report

The Chair provided a verbal update to the SLHD Board on recent activities, including:

- attendance and discussion from the Council of Board Chairs and the NSW Health Secretary meeting.
- The Chair met with the Chair of Canterbury Hospital's Medical Staff Council.

9.1 Correspondence sent on behalf of the Chair

- Letter of Recognition from Board Chair to Michael Morris - General Manager Canterbury Hospital who announced his departure from Canterbury Hospital.
- Board Chair and Chief Executive Congratulatory Letters to Australia Day Honours recipients.

9.1.1 Correspondence Board Oversight of Operational Performance Management

The Board received, noted and read the correspondence.

The Chief Executive advised that the Ministry provides this report and some inconsistencies between SLHD, and the Ministry data were noted. The Performance Unit is working with the Ministry to correct these inconsistencies. The report will be provided each month under *Standing Items 10* of the Board agenda, as part of the Chief Executive's Report.

9.2 Board Member activities since the last SLHD Board meeting

- Nil reported

10. Standing Items

10.1 Chief Executive Report

The Board received, read and noted this report.

Aspergillus Cluster

On 6 February 2026, an Expert Advisory Panel meeting convened by Dr Kerry Chant was held to review the current air sampling results from the Transplant Ward taken on 29 January 2025. These results indicated that no Aspergillus or mould was detected at any location sampled within the Transplant Ward. It was agreed that the ward was safe to reopen. Ongoing air sampling testing will occur, and the Expert Advisory Panel will be stood up as needed.

NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) Hearings

An increase in hearing wait times extending to six weeks rather than the usual two weeks which is impacting length of stay for patients.

10.2 Finance

The Board received, read and noted this report.

10.3 Operations

The Board received, read and noted this report.

10.4 Quality and Safety Report

The Board received, read and noted this report.

10.5 Medical Services

The Board received, read and noted this report.

10.6 Nursing and Midwifery Services

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

The Board received, read and noted the December report.

10.9 Workforce (Quarterly)

The Board noted the report will be tabled at the April Board Meeting.

10.10 Digital Health and Innovations (Quarterly)

The Board noted the report will be tabled at the March Board Meeting.

10.11 Capital Infrastructure and Engineering (Quarterly)

The Board received, read and noted report. Discussion deferred to March Board Meeting

10.12 Executive Risk Management Register (Quarterly)

The Board received, read and noted this report.

10.13 Detailed Asset Management Report (Quarterly)

The Board received, read and noted report. Discussion deferred to March Board Meeting

10.14 Detailed Cyber Security Report (Six Monthly)

The Board noted the report will be tabled at the March Board meeting.

11. Board Committee reports / minutes

11.1 Finance and Performance Management Committee

The Board noted the next meeting will be held on 9 February 2026

11.2 Research Board Subcommittee

The Board noted the next meeting will be held on 2 March 2026

11.3 Audit and Risk Committee

The Board noted the next meeting will be held on 10 March 2026

11.4 Patient Safety and Quality Board Subcommittee

The Board received, read and noted the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2026

11.5 People and Culture Board Subcommittee

The Board noted the next meeting will be held on 16 March 2026

11.6 SLHD Clinical Council

The Board noted the next meeting will be held on 25 February 2026

11.7 Medical Staff Executive Council

The Board noted the next meeting will be held on 6 February 2026

11.8 SLHD Consumer and Community Advisory Council (bi-monthly)

The Board noted the next meeting will be held on 12 February 2026

11.9 Aboriginal Health Steering Committee (bi-monthly)

The Board noted the next meeting will be held on 24 March 2026

12. Matters for Noting

12.1 Sustainability Committee (bi-monthly)

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

12.2 Medical and Dental Appointments Advisory Committee

The Board noted the next meeting will be held on 11 February 2026

12.3 Finance Leaders Forum

The Board noted the next meeting will be held on 26 March 2026

12.4 NSW Health / SLHD Performance Review Meeting

The Board noted the next meeting to be held on 9 February 2026

12.5 Organ Donation for Transplantation

The Board noted the next meeting to be held on 24 March 2026

12.6 Major Procurement, Assets and Imaging Steering Committee

The Board noted the next meeting will be held on 11 November 2025

12.7 Yaralla Estate Community Advisory Committee (quarterly)

The Board noted the next meeting to be held on the 10 February 2026.

12.8 Security and Violence Prevention Committee

The Board noted the next meeting is to be confirmed.

12.9 Public Health Unit Report

The Board received, read and noted the December report

12.10 Health Equity Research & Development Unit

The Board received, read and noted the report.

12.11 SLHD Board Presentation Schedule

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

12.12 SLHD Board Social Calendar

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

13. Business without Notice

- Correspondence from the Minister of Health and Secretary to Board Chairs - Clinical Engagement
- The Deputy Chair provided an update on the Medical Staff Executive Council Meeting including:
 - A refreshment of the agenda to focus on the purpose of the meeting
 - A new item was added to the agenda – Board Update and the minutes of the previous Board meeting to be included in the papers
 - The members acknowledged the engagement of the Chief Executive and Board Chair with Medical Staff.

14 In Camera Session

The Board received, read and noted a report.

15 Next Meeting

The next SLHD Board meeting will be held on Monday 16 March 2026, 8.30 to 11.00am at KGV Camperdown.

16 Board Meeting with Canterbury Hospital Medical Staff Council and Clinical Council Representatives

Attendees

Mr Jason Cheung (General Manager and Co-Chair, Clinical Council)
Dr Mona Marabani (Chair, Medical Staff Council)
Dr Matthew Chu (Medical Staff Council member)
Dr Thomas Yeoh (Medical Staff Council member)
Dr Aye Su Htun (Medical Staff Council member)
Dr Daniel Novakovic (Medical Staff Council member)
Dr Tim Gray (Medical Staff Council)
Dr Laura Hutchinson (Medical Staff Council member & Co Chair Clinical Council)
Mr Brian Robson (Clinical Council member)
Ms Stephanie Johnson (Clinical Council member)
Mr Tom O'Sullivan (Clinical Council member)
Ms Cathie Spiker (Clinical Council member)
Ms Ces Aguilar (Clinical Council member)

The Board Chair welcomed attendees and acknowledged the continued commitment of Canterbury Hospital staff. The Chair of the Medical Staff Council thanked the Board and Chief Executive for the opportunity to meet. Key issues raised included:

- Ongoing funding pressures.
- Inadequate videoconferencing facilities for staff.
- Concerns about executive turnover following the resignation of two senior executives.
- Transferring patients from Canterbury to either RPA or Concord for specialists' services such as angiography at Concord.

- Concerns regarding the prioritisation of the allocation of medical trainees to Canterbury.

ACTION: The Chief Executive to follow up on the process for determining the prioritisation of medical trainees.

- Concern was also raised about the increasing Emergency Department presentations, staffing adequacy to respond to this demand, and clarity of escalation pathways for intra-hospital transfers.

ACTION: The Chief Executive to reissue a district-wide memo clarifying Canterbury Hospital's patient transfer escalation procedure.



Board Chair, SLHD

Date: 16 . 3 . 26