EMHS BOARD COMMUNIQUE

OCTOBER 2026

Key strategic matters considered by the East Metropolitan Health Service Board, including its oversight, priorities and organisational direction

MEETING AT A GLANCE

DATE	LOCATION	STRATEGIC DIRECTION
Tuesday 6 October 2026	East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS)	Improvement through innovation and research

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The Board Chair and Chief Executive met with WA Chief Health Officer Dr Clare Huppatz to discuss emerging themes from the WA Preventative Health Strategy and Public Health Futures Review, including their implications for the future direction and delivery of public health services across EMHS.

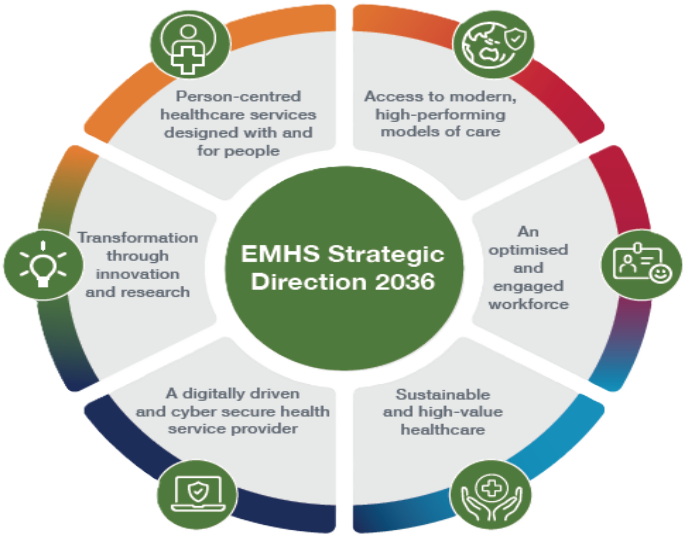
Board representatives attended the opening of the new EMHS Mount Lawley Hospital and engaged with staff transitioning to EMHS. The visit provided an opportunity to recognise the contribution of the workforce supporting the transition and the importance of maintaining safe, high-quality and person-centred care through organisational change.

Deputy Chair Clare Grieveson also visited the Royal Perth Hospital Innovation Hub to learn about the Voice Banking project led by speech pathologist Libby Sinclair. The initiative demonstrates how locally led innovation can improve communication options for people living with progressive neurological conditions and translate innovation investment into meaningful patient outcomes.









EMHS Strategic Direction 2036

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Improvement through innovation and research

THE QUESTION CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD

How is EMHS ensuring that innovation and research initiatives are delivering tangible improvements for consumers, communities or stakeholders and how are these outcomes being evaluated, measured and monitored?

What the Board heard

- Professor Grant Waterer, Executive Director Medical Services, outlined how innovation and research support the EMHS Strategic Direction 2036 through service improvement, evidence-informed care and the translation of new ideas into better health outcomes.
- EMHS has a broad portfolio of innovation activity, including 27 active initiatives spanning process redesign, digital health and biomedical engineering.
- Sustained investment, stronger strategic alignment and collaboration will be important to building organisational capability and maximising benefits for patients, staff and the broader community.

Board perspective

The Board discussed the prioritsation of innovation and research in accordance with strategic need, anticipated benefit and the capacity to deliver measurable improvements in care, experience and system performance.

The Board Finance Committee will consider the EMHS Innovation Strategy, with a focus on strategic alignment, investment, governance, benefits realisation, contractual considerations and intellectual property.

GOVERNANCE & OVERSIGHT

PERFORMANCE & DELIVERY

The Board reviewed organisational performance across emergency access, elective surgery, outpatient services and mental health. Discussion focused on performance trends, significant pressures, improvements priorities and the executive actions required to support sustainable service delivery.

FINANCE & SUSTAINABILITY

The Board maintained oversight of progress against the EMHS Financial Sustainability Plan, including the relationship between financial performance, service demand and the sustainable delivery of care.

The Board also noted the development of the EMHS Environmental Sustainability Plan and its proposed 12-month action plan, encompassing food waste, energy use and sustainable design principles for future infrastructure.

GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

The Board welcomed the Minister for Health; Mental Health; Preventative Health and discussed the Government's health priorities and their implications for EMHS strategy, service delivery and future planning.

The Board also received a briefing from Health Support Services Chief Executive Giles Nunis on cyber security accountability across WA health. The discussion reinforced the shared responsibilities of HSS and Health Service Providers in governing and managing cyber risk.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Board noted progress in translating the EMHS Strategic Directions 2036 into an integrated three-year Strategic Plan and 2027 Operational Plan. This work will establish clearer organisational priorities, measures and accountabilities to support implementation of the long-term direction.

BOARD ENGAGEMENT

RPH Research Foundation

The Board welcomed RPH Research Foundation Chief Executive Officer Cate Cassarchis, who outlined opportunities to strengthen collaboration between the Foundation and EMHS through a coordinated research and innovation program aligned with health service priorities.
Board Members also toured the Foundation's facilities, providing further insight into its research capability and its potential contribution to EMHS strategic priorities.

THE BOARD WILL MAINTAIN OVERSIGHT OF:

- Implementation and Outcomes of the EMHS Financial Sustainability Plan
- Finalisation of the EMHS Risk Appetite Statement
- Modern, integrated and high-performing models of care as the Board's strategic focus for November 2026.