

Minutes

South Western Sydney Local Health District Board

Date	Monday 22 June 2026 – Reserve Meeting
Time	2.00pm
Venue	SWSLHD Boardroom, District Office

Present and Apologies

Members	Pres.	Apol.	Members	Pres.	Apol.
Ms Billie Sankovic (Chair)	✓		Mr John Roach	✓	
Prof Deepak Bhonagiri	✓		A/Prof Vincent Roche	✓	
Prof Jill White	✓		Ms Annamaria Wood		✓
Ms Annette Lamb	✓				
District Attendees	Pres.	Apol.	District Attendees	Pres.	Apol.
Ms Sonia Marshall, Chief Executive	✓		Dr Lai Heng Foong, Chair, Medical Staff Executive Council	✓	
Ms Karen McMenamin, Executive Director Operations & Performance	✓		Ms Brenda Gillard, Director Clinical Governance	✓	
Mr Dimi Palamidis, Director Finance	✓		Ms Marion Taylor, Manager Office of the Chief Executive and Board (Secretariat)	✓	
Ms Eloise Cadogan, A/Director Safety & Risk, (Chief Risk Officer)	✓				

1. Acknowledgment of Country	The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land and paid respect to Elders past and present.	
Welcome & Meeting Evaluation Nomination	The Board agreed that as this is a Reserve Board Meeting and held for a deep dive on Safety and Access only, a formal meeting evaluation would not be required.	
2. Apologies	Apologies were noted for A Wood.	
3. Declarations of Interest	The Board agreed that as there will be no call for any formal decisions in this Reserve Board meeting, a call for declarations of interest is not required.	
4. Confirmation of Minutes & Actions	The Board agreed to hold over confirmation of minutes and actions from the 4 May 2026 Board Meeting.	

5. Chief Executive's Report	The Board NOTED the Chief Executive's report as circulated with the agenda.	
6. Deep Dive – Access	- K McMenamin presented to the SWSLHD Board with on the topic of Access and Flow challenges across SWSLHD, including current system pressures, risks and opportunities for improvement, and considered the Board's role in supporting access and flow as a whole-of-system priority. - Discussion focused on the increasing number of aged care and NDIS participants occupying acute hospital beds, with members noting the significant growth in residential aged care facility (RACF) patients remaining in hospital due to limited placement options. - It was acknowledged that this is a nationwide issue requiring coordinated action across the system. - The Board discussed a range of potential local solutions to support patient flow and improve outcomes, including partnerships with private providers, alternative models of transitional care, and opportunities to repurpose existing facilities. - The Board queried if we have information regarding the cost of caring for patients requiring aged care placement while occupying acute hospital beds, taking into account activity-based funding arrangements. ACTION: Provide update to the Board regarding financial impacts of patients awaiting aged care placement in acute hospital beds and current state of local strategies to address the issue. - The Board agreed on the need for continued advocacy at the Commonwealth level to address broader aged care capacity constraints and agreed that national and targeted advocacy would be required to support sustainable long-term solutions.	D Palamidis / K McMenamin
7. Deep Dive Safety	- E Cadogan presented to the SWSLHD Board with District's safety framework, including the current safety context, regulatory environment, safety risk profile and ongoing improvement activities. - The presentation also explored the current and future role of the Board in providing oversight of safety across SWSLHD. - Discussion focused on the appropriate governance arrangements for Board oversight of safety and the importance of clear milestones and target timeframes within the overarching safety strategy to support effective oversight and accountability. - the Board agreed that detailed oversight of safety should be undertaken through the Health Care Quality and Safety Committee (HCQSC), with regular reporting to the Board via updates from the HCQSC.	
8. SWSLHD AI Update	The Board <u>NOTED</u> the Artificial Intelligence (AI) update report as circulated with the agenda.	
9. Other Business without notice	Nil	

S Marshall, K McMenamin, B Gillard, D Palamidas, E Cadogan, Lai Heng Foong, & M Taylor left the meeting

10. Close / Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on Monday 27 July at Bowral & District Hospital.

**11. In-camera session
including meeting
evaluation**