Government of South Australia | Health
Eyre and Far North Local Health Network

Eyre and Far North Local Health Network
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 26 June 2025 9.00am-midday
Streaky Bay Hospital + Teams

Name	Position/Title	Attendance	Item
Michele Smith	Chair	A	
Jamie Siviour	Member	P	All
Leanne Dunchue	Member	P	All
Dr David Mills	Member	P	All
Christine Thyer	Member	V	Joined 9.30am
Chris Sweet	Member	A	
Peter Auhl	Member	V	All
Jackie Ah Kit	Member	A	
Attendees			
Julie Marron	Chief Executive Officer EFNLHN	P	All
Judy Pink	Chief Finance Officer EFNLHN	P	All
Jane Robinson	Director Governance and Strategy EFNLHN	P	All
Guests			
Dr Susan Merrett	Executive Director Medical Services	V	All
Andrew Lane	Executive Director Nursing and Midwifery EFNLHN	P	All
Sharon Ryan	Executive Director Community and Allied Health	V	All
Michael Wright	Director People and Culture	V	Item 2.1
Apologies			
Michele Smith	Chair		

Chris Sweet	Member		
Jackie Ah Kit	Member		

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we are meeting upon today.
We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal people to country.
We also pay respect to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting/attending from other areas of South Australia present here.

Eyre and Far North Local Health Network GOVERNING BOARD Meeting Minutes 26/06/2025		
	Agenda Item	**Discussion Points**
1.	**OPENING**	**Meeting opened at 9.00am, without quorum. Meeting quorate from 9.30am.**
	1.1 In Camera Discussion	• Not held.
	1.2 Welcome and Apologies	• Acknowledgement of Country. • Apologies from M. Smith, C. Sweet, J. Ah Kit. • C. Thyer joined 9.30am • Meeting quorate from 9.30am
	1.3 Interests and Conflicts Disclosure Log	• No interests or conflicts declared.

	1.4 Confirmation of previous Minutes	• Confirmed, agreement to previous Minutes being signed by the Chair.
		• Discussion about:
		  ○ ensuring the accuracy of minutes in light of another LHN's recent experience.
		  ○ use of AI tools for minutes-generation for governance committees, Board expressed support for this approach.

	1.5 Actions from previous Minutes	• Reviewed and confirmed.
	1.6 Notification of Other Business	• Board discussed administration of Tier 1 Finance and Performance Committee, proposing: 1) Board member C. Sweet to chair T1 Finance and Performance (F&P) Committee for 12 months while new Board appointee, T. Smith, shadows that chairing role. Proposal agreed. 2) T1 F&P Committee to meet bi-monthly, in the alternate month to the Board meeting. Proposal agreed.
	1.7 Patient Story	• Board provided with a historical account from retiring Board member. Dr D. Mills, of four medical firsts in the Eyre and Far North, from the first documented case of a patient being sent out of the region for treatment, to the first doctor, to the first flying doctors, to the career of Dr Freddy Chrysler. • Board thanked Dr Mills, noting the courage, bravery and skills of the individuals cited in all four examples.

2.	**MATTERS FOR DECISION**	
	2.1 EFNLHN Human Resources Delegations and Schedules Review 2025	• Board commenced Matters for Decision once meeting quorate. • Board reviewed and approved the HR Delegations and Schedules 2025.
	2.2 Streaky Bay Medical Practice	• Board discussed a proposal from the Streaky Bay Medical Clinic Board, noting that the contents were commercial-in-confidence. • Board voted to approve the proposal. • Board member L. Dunchue offered to abstain from voting due to her long-standing volunteer work with the Streaky Bay Medical Clinic, offering accounting services. Board agreed to allow Mrs Dunchue to remain in the discussion and vote on the resolution.
3.	**STRATEGIC DISCUSSION**	
	3.1 Draft EFNLHN Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030	• Board discussed the proposed elements of the EFNLHN Strategic Plan 2026-2030 – purpose, values, strategic pillars and enablers. • Board approved the purpose, strategic pillars and enablers and agreed that four values should be tested with staff and key stakeholders, including courageous. • Board reviewed and approved the proposed Strategic Plan consultation and engagement plan for staff and key stakeholders.
	3.2 EFNLHN Clinician Engagement Strategy 2025 - 2028	• Board reviewed the Strategy, noting that it had been extensively consulted on and discussed at both the Tier 2 Clinician Engagement and T1 Consumer, Community and Clinician Engagement Committees. • Board approved the Strategy to be designed and made ready for publication, contingent on the final wording of the new EFNLHN Strategic Plan strategic priorities and values being added to the final version.
	3.3 EFNLHN Consumer and Community Engagement Strategy 2025 - 2028	• Board reviewed the Strategy, noting that it had been extensively consulted on with key stakeholders, including Aboriginal stakeholders, discussed at both the Tier 2 Consumer and Community Engagement and T1 Consumer, Community and Clinician Engagement Committees, and had been checked to ensure use of consumer-friendly tone and language. • Board approved the Strategy to be designed and made ready for publication, contingent on the final wording of the new EFNLHN Strategic Plan strategic priorities and values being added to the final version.
	3.4 Rural Support Service (RSS) Realignment Update	• Board discussed the re-alignment proposal and noted that consultation was still underway with RSS staff and the regional LHNs. • Board noted ongoing risk for EFNLHN with the re-alignment of functions and

		positions potentially leading to gaps in the provision of some support services to the LHN. • Board noted that the RSS Governance Committee, which had included EFNLHN Board Member, L. Dunchue, as a member, had held its last meeting and disbanded. • Board thanked Mrs Dunchue for her participation on that committee. • Board noted that an orientation event for new LHN Board members was being planned by the Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW), which Board members were being encouraged to attend.
4.	**MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**	
	.4.1 Aged Care Update 4.1.1 Aged Care Act Implementation Update	• Board discussed the Commonwealth's postponement of the implementation of the national Aged Care Act until 1 November 2025, noting both benefits and risks. • Board also noted that EFNLHN had been the recipient of a Commonwealth Thin Markets grant which would allow the LHN to set competitive prices for its in-home aged care services. • Board Members who had attended a national webinar in preparation for the new aged care legislation raised the greater range of risks for providers to manage, increased responsibility for provider Boards, and that the Commonwealth expected strict compliance with the new arrangements from 1 November. • Board agreed to further discuss its role and responsibilities with respect to the new Act and strengthened Aged Care Standards at its next meeting.
	4.1.2 Oak Valley MPS Site Visit	• Board noted discussions with the Commonwealth related to the future of the Oak Valley multi-purpose service (MPS) site, which the LHN currently is responsible for. • Board reiterated its support for that site and service to become the responsibility of the Oak Valley community. • Board commented that the arrangements to achieve that self-sufficiency are complicated but they had been reassured by the progress EFNLHN was making.
	4.2 Chief Executive Officer Report 4.2.1. CEO Report June 2025	• Board noted the Report, including EFNLHN winning a Nursing and Midwifery Excellence award, and achieving the highest level of performance (Level 1) at the most recent performance meeting with the Department for Health and Wellbeing.
	4.2.2 Performance Report June 2025	• Board noted the report, commenting on the LHN's ongoing non-compliance with complaints management Key Performance Indicators and noting reforms to internal procedures and processes to achieve compliance.

	4.2.2.1 Traffic Light Report	• Board noted the Report.
	4.2.3 EFNLHN Quarter 3 Performance Review Meeting Minutes	• Board noted the Minutes. • Board discussed how reporting of this type could be presented in future, proposing that summaries only be provided, with the full reports stored in the Diligent Resource Centre for Board members to access as they needed.
	4.2.4 Executive Committee Summary	• Noted.
	4.3 Finance Report	
	4.3.1 Finance Report (June 2025)	• Board noted the Report and praised the LHN for improvement in the projected End of Financial Year position.
	4.3.2 EFNLHN Budget Overview 2025-26	• Board noted the overview.
	4.3.3 Interim General Purpose Financial Statements 2024-25	• Board noted the interim Statements, and that they had been reviewed by both T1 Finance and Performance and Tier 1 Audit and Risk Committee members.
	4.4 Board Committees	
	4.4.1 Audit and Risk Committee	• Board noted no meeting had been held.
	4.4.2 Finance and Performance Committee	• Board noted Minutes. Outgoing Chair L. Dunchue was praised for her leadership of the committee, resulting in changes to reporting to make it more accessible and user friendly.
	4.4.3 Clinical Governance Committee	• Board noted Minutes. • Outgoing Chair Dr D. Mills was praised for his steady and wise Committee leadership. • Dr Mills praised the culture of EFNLHN, which he said supported the provision of safe care across the LHN.
	4.4.4 Digital Strategy Committee	• Board noted the Minutes.
	4.4.5 Consumer, Community and Clinician Engagement Committee	• Board noted the Minutes and that the LHN planned to trial the use of AI to generate committee minutes for this Committee and the two Tier 2 Committees that report into it.

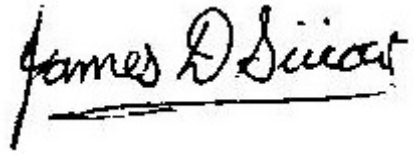
	4.5 Chairperson Update	• Board noted the update. • Board discussed the issue of access to Refundable Accomodation Deposits (RADs) that had been retained in the past but were not available to regional LHNs to use. • Board noted that asset sustainment was one of the LHN's biggest issues and risks, particularly with strengthened Aged Care legislation and standards coming into force in 2025.
	4.5.1 Farewell to retiring Board members, L. Dunchue. D. Mills	• Board reflected on the significant contributions that both Dr Mills and Mrs Dunchue had made over their respective six years on the Board and thanked them.
	4.5.2 Board appointments and re-appointments	• Board noted that the Minister had announced two new Board appointments - Dr Mel Considine and Trevor Smith, who would start on 1 July 2025.
5.	**MATTERS FOR NOTING**	
	5.1 SA Health Workforce Data Asset and Proact Data Access Minute	• Noted.
	5.2 EFNLHN Self-Generated Briefings to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing	
	5.2.1 Establishment of Rehabilitation Service	• Noted
	5.2.2 Nganampa Contract Variation 2024 - 2027	• Noted
	5.3. EFNLHN Self-Generated Briefings to the Chief Executive, Department for Health and Wellbeing – Nil	• Noted
	5.4 Out of Session Approvals - Nil	• Noted
	5.5 Major Correspondence	
	5.5.1 RSS Governing Committee Minutes May 2025	• Noted.
	5.5.2 Appointment Letters to HAC Presiding Members H. Miller, S. Chase	• Noted

6.	**OTHER BUSINESS**	

	6.1 Other Business from Item 1.6	• Discussion about:
		  ○ succession planning for Nursing Leadership
		  ○ value of staff scholarships and seeking community support for scholarships.
		
		• Agreement to host the next Board meeting in Cummins and organise a tour of the refurbished kitchen.

7.	**MEETING FINALISATION**	
	7.1 Review actions to be taken	• Board noted the action items.
	7.2 Meeting Evaluation	• Completed.
	7.3 Agenda items for next meeting	• Noted.
	7.4 Meeting Close	• Meeting closed 11.43am
Next Meeting: 4 September 2025, Cummins Hospital + Teams		

Minutes approved



Jamie Siviour
A/Chair, Eyre and Far North Local Health Network
4 September 2025