

SHI Board Communiqué – February 2025

The SHI Board met on the 4th of February 2025 and discussed the following matters:

The Chair welcomed all members to the first Board meeting for 2025 and extended a special welcome to Dr Jacqueline Nguyen as the Registrar observer for 2025.

Operational Matters

Registrar arrangements

The Board discussed ongoing challenges with the registrar roster; including difficulties in planning for clinics, visibility of annual leave arrangements, and registrars being held back by other facilities. It was noted that some aspects of registrar rostering had improved over the past 6-12 months as a result of collaboration with the ACD Faculty and reforms driven by the faculty leadership. SHI will continue to advocate for further improvements to rostering arrangements, which will benefit all hospitals and facilities and most importantly our registrars.

ANMF Enterprise Bargaining negotiations

The Board was advised that the SHI and ANMF Enterprise Agreement 2024 was formally approved by the Fair Work Commission, effective from 27 January 2025. The nominal expiry date of the Agreement is 30 June 2027.

Private health insurance contracts

Board members discussed SHI's negotiations with the Australian Health Service Alliance (AHSA) over the renewal of our Hospital Purchaser Provider Agreement (HPPA). AHSA is the largest health insurance buying group in Australia and represents more than 20 small to medium sized funds. The Board noted the low level of annual indexation in the current contract and supported management's approach to securing a more commercially sustainable arrangement.

Operating performance

The CEO briefed the Board on the Institute's operating performance for the half year to 31 December 2024. The Board was pleased to note that the year-to-date operating surplus was trending favourably to budget, and ahead of performance over the same period in the previous year.

Strategic planning

Board members were briefed on plans to refresh the SHI Strategic Plan, with a facilitated planning session involving Board and Leadership Team members scheduled for 18 February.

Approved by Dr Edward Upjohn, Chair of the SHI Board