

SHI Board Communiqué – October 2024

The SHI Board met on 15th of October 2024 and discussed the following matters:

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting.

Policy

Conflicts of Interest

The Board approved an updated Conflict of Interest Policy, to be reviewed in 12 months. The Board also accepted a recommendation from the Governance Committee to reframe the current “Conflicts of Interest” Register to a “Declarations of Interest” Register. The revised register will be designed to capture relevant staff and medical specialist’s affiliations and appointments, including those not necessarily creating a conflict. The policy was also edited to make it more concise.

Operational Matters

ANMF Enterprise Bargaining negotiations

Board members received an update on current negotiations with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) for the next SHI agreement covering nursing wages and conditions. The Board discussed the budget implications of a new EBA and supported a revised offer from management with a view to a reaching a fair resolution to the process.

Sub-committee reports – Finance, Audit and Risk Management committee

The Chair of the FARM Committee, Mr Jim Power, briefed the Board on the audited Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2024 and the Audit Management Letter. The Board was pleased to note that the Institute had returned an operating surplus, with a strong turnaround in operating cashflow compared to previous years. Surplus cash is currently offsetting interest on the Institute’s business loan facility. The Committee Chair updated the Board on the small number of low-risk matters raised in the audit and next steps for ongoing financial processes improvement.

Board members approved revisions to the 2024-25 budget and also noted that operating performance since 1 July 2024 was running to budget.

Sub-committee reports – Governance committee

As the Chair of the Governance Committee was an apology, the Chair and CEO briefed the Board on the Committee’s discussions regarding board vacancies and succession planning.

The Committee has identified two potential new non-dermatologist members to fill vacancies on the Board. The Board noted their skills and experience closely aligned to the skills gaps identified through a Board skills questionnaire. The Board supported these candidates and agreed to their nominations, subject to next steps.

Board members were also briefed on arrangements for the upcoming AGM and Member Awards Dinner on Wednesday 20 November. It was agreed that this would be an in-person event.

Sub-committee reports – Clinical Governance committee

The CEO briefed the Board on matters discussed at a meeting of the Clinical Governance Committee held on 27 August. This included the credentialling of new medical officers, revisions to a number of clinical policies, and the results of a cleaning and infection control audit.

Approved by Dr Edward Upjohn, Chair of the SHI Board