



St John WA

Board Communiqué

Kaya from Whadjuk land where the Board met close to the banks of the Derbarl Yerrigan.

The St John WA Group Board *Communique* is released after each of the eight formalised Board meetings, and the November Planning Day. This *Communique* represents a summary of a mid-quarter meeting. The St John WA Board provides governance to the organisation which delivers on its charitable purpose, plus the oversight of its wholly-owned subsidiary Apollo Health Limited. St John WA's purpose is:

'To serve humanity and build resilient communities, through the relief of sickness, distress, suffering and danger.'

Role of the St John WA Board

The Group Board's role is in keeping with St John WA's need to pursue its charitable purpose (and the purpose of Apollo Health) effectively and meet its obligations under the law, and has four roles aligned to Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) parameters, being:

Role 1. Group CEO oversight and resourcing

Role 2. Group performance and accountability

Role 3. Group compliance and risk

Role 4. Group strategic direction and sustainability

St John WA Board Directors govern the organisation sustainably, and create value (such as social, economic, data, human capital) completely aligned to the St John WA purpose.

St John WA organisation-wide values are:



Lead with Heart



Think Team



Make it Better



Walk the Talk

Highlights of the September Mid-Quarter Board Meeting

St John WA Board can now affirm that the organisation is strongly strategically driven. The Board functions through its purpose, using its 2030 Strategic Direction and the GCEO's Strategic Plan. Together with the GCEO, the Board has a comprehensive system in place to make informed strategic decisions.

Acknowledgements at the meeting

An Acknowledgement of Country: Board member Craig Heatley acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land in which we met, the lands of the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, and paid respect to Elders past, present and emerging. In doing so, he recalled his recent time spent in Virginia, Halifax County, USA. He paid respect to the indigenous peoples, recalling the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga and Cayuga from Seneca and Tuscarora tribes. He spoke of how they too had been displaced during white settlement, in this era during the growth of cotton and tobacco farming, and now making up only 0.09% of the population. The Board had a moment of reflection considering the worst of history in many parts of the world, yet having a vision for a united future, as we aim for, within St John WA and across Australia.

A Respect of St John: It was my turn to acknowledge the work being done around the world through the St John International three-global regions – how regions are building strong trades with each other, and highlighted Hato Hone St John New Zealand helping CHOGM in Samoa, as an example.



Agenda items

1. Board's Role 4 – Strategic direction leading to corporate sustainability.

- Threats and Opportunities 2030 to 2050: The Board commenced a 'what's next' journey in a timespan greater than the current 'Strategic Direction' 2030 at the June Board meeting in Geraldton. The Board analysed this list, at the Board meeting, checking if there are any items requiring deeper consideration during the 2025 Board's workplan.
- The Board noted the longer November Planning Day agenda, including Focus Areas 1 and 2 from the GCEO's Strategic Plan plus future thinking on AI and automation.
- Activity System: The Board and GCEO formed St John WA's first Activity System Placemat in January 2024 – with this Board meeting taking the System to the next level in preparedness for strategic decision making in 2025.

2. St John Health

- The Board's workplan requested a deeper consideration into the purpose and vision of the three St John Health services - General Practice (GP), Dental and Urgent Care which currently reach 330,000 customer (patient) touchpoints per year.
- The presentation included research demonstrating population needs for these services currently and in the future for the metropolitan area.
- The Board endorsed the new focus and clarity for St John Health services underlining sustainability and impact reach, providing a clear path for the future of the Dental, General Practice and Urgent Care business units.
- The Board and executives discussed the future digital plans for these services.

3. Governance Matters

- Annual General Meeting – Notice and Business. The Board discussed the calling of the AGM 2024, inclusive of the Notice to Members for this meeting. Following this discussion the Board approved the Annual Chapter Meeting and Annual General Meeting for Tuesday 26 November 2024. The Annual General Notice will be sent early November 2024.
- **FY 2024 Corporate Governance Statement.** The Board discussed and approved the new and elevated Corporate Governance Statement to be uploaded on St John WA's website Governance page. The Board noted the new, strong governance standards with which the organisation is now functioning.
- **Members' Policy.** The Board discussed and approved the new Members' Policy created by Legal Counsel, Compliance Team Leader and Company Secretary, with the Policy being a clear and coherent approach to Members' roles and responsibilities.
- Fit and Proper Persons Policy. The Board discussed and approved this new Policy, being part of the two-year Governance Advancement Plan, which prudently manages the risks associated with appointing individuals to Responsible Persons positions.

4. Time Dependent Discussion from Audit and Investment Committee.

- External Audit process: in preparation for end of year financial statements, approvals, reports, letters, and declarations, the Board discussed the Committee's update on the External Audit process, including noting that for the first time since acquisition in 2016, and following approval from the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC), St John WA will be presenting a single consolidated set of financial statements, with no separate financials from wholly-owned subsidiary Apollo Health Ltd.

5. Time Dependent Approvals from Nominations and Remunerations Committee



- **Board Chair Succession and Non Executive Director Recruitment for 2025:** The Board approved recruitment firm Gaines Advisory be appointed as external recruiter for 2025 for Board succession requirements based on diversity and reach of candidates, experience in appointing on boards of like-kind, and diligence of service around appointment process. Appointment process will now take place in readiness for one or two NED casual appointments, inclusive of the new Chair and Commandery Lieutenant.
- **Board Performance Review:** The Board approved the framework for the 2024 (past year) performance of the full Board, and individual Non Executive Directors inclusive of method of data collection, through to the sharing of learnings.

Next meeting

- Oversight of company performance through Quarterly Operational and Strategic Reports.
- Deeper dive into psychological safety through St John WA.

Gratitude during the month of September

The Board of St John WA would like to take this opportunity to thank Toodyay Sub Centre for the invitation to its 80th anniversary this month amongst the Traditional Owners from Ballardong, Yued and Whadjuk peoples. On visiting, I learned that volunteers met in the Toodyay Town Hall on 22 January 1944 and decided to create a St John WA service, noting the financial aid from the Toodyay Roads Board and the Lotteries Commission. The first ambulance arrived a year later. From all St John team members across the State, we congratulate the Toodyay team for building such a strong commitment to their local people through three St John WA services, ambulance, community transport and first aid training - right now having 30 Volunteer Ambulance Officers handling more than 415 callouts a year. And in connection, the Bolgart Depot opened in 2010, and a new Sub Branch was established in Morangup in 2008. Congratulations all!



Board Directors Andrea LeGuier, Craig Heatley, Jeffrey Williams and myself enjoyed engagement with team members and Order Members at the 2024 The Experience held in August. The learnings were stimulating, and being part of the Volunteer Awards is always inspiring. Congratulations to the “Of the Year” finalists and award winners Marion Macdougall (Country), John Molcher (Metro), Morley (EHS Division) and Karratha (Sub Centre).





Members engagement at the Annual Chapter Meeting and Annual General Meeting

The Annual Chapter Meeting and Annual General Meeting has been confirmed for Tuesday 26 November 2024. The Annual General Notice will be sent to Order Members early November 2024.

The full Group Board is looking forward to engaging with Order Members and sharing a three-part act:

- Act 1: The St John movement locally, across Australia and around the World
- Act 2: The business of St John WA – the AGM
- Act 3: The official launch of St John Academy WA as well as news of the new grounds and museum.

Group Board *Communique* is released after each Board meeting (six weeks apart) and includes reporting on Committee meetings held in between Quarterly, or red, Board meetings, or time-dependent Committee updates, as is the case with this *Communique*.

Regards, St John WA Board



Sally Carbon
she/her

Board Chair OAM, OLY, CSTJ, FAICD

Attendance September 2024

- Present in person:
 - Sally Carbon, Elisa Fear, Craig Heatley, Monish Paul, Matt Meuller (Board Directors)
 - Kevin Brown (Group CEO)
 - Present for part meeting: Darren Webb (Chief Community Officer), Dr Jamie Stewart (Medical Director Community), Stephen Cummins (Strategic Planning Lead), Elham Saunders (Legal Counsel)
 - Gauri Potdar (Co Sec)
- Present online:
 - Amanda Healy (Board Member)
- Absent: Andrea LeGuier (Board Member)