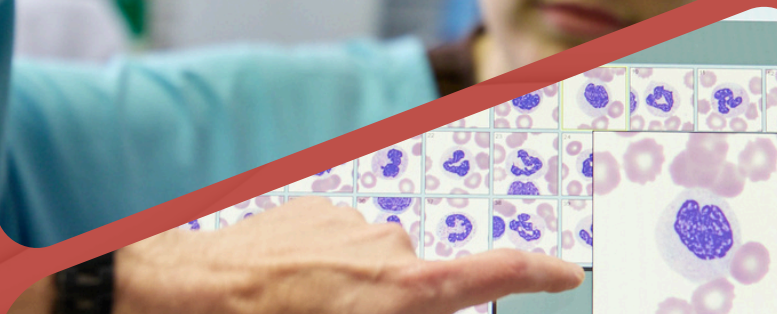
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PathWest
LABORATORY MEDICINE WA

Pathology services for **all Western Australians**



PathWest snapshot

15,184,332

Laboratory tests performed in 2025/26

263,578

Phone calls received with 97% answered in under one minute

3,200+

Postmortem exams performed by State Mortuary

1,190,000 km

Distance covered annually by PathWest courier fleet

214

Donor organs successfully typed and matched for Western Australian patients

9

Regional scholarships awarded

PathWest overview

PathWest is Western Australia's public pathology provider, delivering trusted, fully accredited diagnostic, forensic, and commercial testing services that support the health, safety, and wellbeing of our communities.

With an extensive network of laboratories, collection centres, and specialist testing facilities, PathWest provides the largest and most comprehensive range of testing services in Western Australia.

> *Our work underpins patient care, public health, and the justice system, supporting critical decisions every day.*

Our statewide network supports equitable access to healthcare, connecting communities to timely, high-quality pathology services that inform diagnosis, treatment and clinical decision-making for all patients, regardless of location.

9
Metropolitan laboratories

18
Regional and remote laboratories

9
State Mortuary

1
Media manufacturing unit

1
Forensic Biology laboratory

25
Metropolitan collection sites

55
Regional collection sites

Supporting patient care

PathWest's testing services play a vital role across healthcare, public health, and justice.

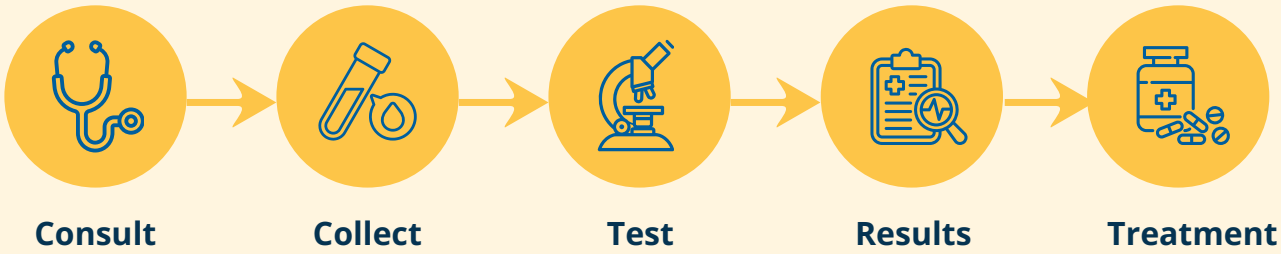
Our tests:

- Diagnose diseases, infections, and cancers
- Support treatment decisions and patient care pathways
- Enable early detection and prevention strategies
- Support criminal investigations and forensic analysis
- Assist in coronial and identification processes
- Provide specialised testing for public health and industry.

Every test contributes to safer and better health outcomes for Western Australians

The pathology journey

Pathology services are a critical part of the healthcare journey, providing the information clinicians rely on to diagnose conditions, monitor treatment, and guide care decisions.



The Patient Journey

What happens in the PathWest laboratory?

Haematology
Assesses red and white blood cells, platelets and haemoglobin levels

Biochemistry
Tests for chemical components and biochemical markers

Microbiology
Detects the presence of infections

Immunology
Assesses immune system function and checks for autoimmune conditions

Diagnostic Genomics
Rules out any hereditary conditions

Anatomical Pathology
Identifies abnormal cells or structures

Our services

Haematology

Haematology performs a wide range of routine and specialised testing services assist in diagnosing and treating various blood disorders. Additionally, our laboratory supplies therapeutic products such as blood, plasma, platelets, clotting factors, and bone marrow.

Biochemistry

Our clinical biochemistry laboratories analyse blood, urine, and other fluids to assess metabolic health, diagnose disease, and monitor treatment. These tests help determine a patient's metabolic status and monitor their response to treatment. Biochemistry also conducts research to develop new diagnostic tests and improve analytical methods.

Microbiology

Microbiology detects and manages disease-causing microorganisms, including bacteria, fungi, viruses, protozoa, and helminths. Our laboratory offers routine and diagnostic testing for acute and chronic diseases, advice on antimicrobial use, infection prevention, control, and microbial surveillance. Non-clinical services include food and water testing, media manufacturing, and pharmaceutical testing.

Immunology

Our Immunology laboratory is the leading provider in the state for diagnosing, monitoring, and treating immunological disorders linked to autoimmunity, allergies, immunodeficiency, transplantation, and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). This department employs state-of-the-art DNA sequencing technology to perform thorough tissue typing and matching for solid organ and bone marrow transplants.

Our services

Diagnostic Genomics

Diagnostic Genomics offers essential diagnostic, prenatal, predictive, and family studies, particularly in the challenging field of rare diseases (RD). Rare diseases affect fewer than one in 2,000 people but over 6,000 RDs have been identified. Over 70% of RDs have an underlying genetic cause and a significant proportion manifest before birth or in early childhood.

Anatomical Pathology

Anatomical Pathology provides a highly specialised and comprehensive diagnostic pathology service to WA public patients. This includes clinician access statewide to expert pathology reviews and specialist consultations to ensure equitable access to a high standard of care.

Forensic Biology

The Forensic Biology Department conducts DNA testing for the Western Australian Police Force (WAPF) and State Coroner to assist in resolving criminal and Coronial cases for the Western Australian Community. Expediting DNA testing allows Police to resolve cases faster, limiting the time offenders have to commit more crimes and allowing the Coroner to repatriate human remains to families.

Forensic Pathology

The Forensic Pathology Department and State Mortuary facility provide a comprehensive Coronial post-mortem service for WA under the direction of the State Coroner. We continue to leverage improved facilities afforded by the refurbishment of the State Mortuary to support delivery of services to the Coroner, including homicides and suspicious deaths.

Impact on community health

Newborn screenings

Over 30,000 babies are screened each year for life-threatening conditions using a simple heel-prick blood test at birth. Early detection enables timely treatment and intervention, giving families reassurance and improving long-term health outcomes from the very beginning of life.

Public health surveillance

Advanced microbiology and genomic testing supports the detection and monitoring ofinfectious diseases across Western Australia. This work informs public health responses, helping to prevent outbreaks, protect communities and guide health policy decisions.

Emergency and hospital care

PathWest works closely with emergency departments and hospital teams across all of Western Australia to deliver timely test results that support urgent clinical decision-making.

Fast, reliable diagnostics help clinicians assess and treat patients quickly, particularly in emergency settings.

Frontline collection services

Our collection teams perform **around 10,000 patient collections every day**, supporting hospitals, clinics, and specialised health services.

These services ensure samples are collected safely and efficiently, forming the first step in the diagnostic process.

Supporting regional and remote communities

PathWest delivers more than **14 million laboratory tests each year.** Our statewide network ensures access to pathology services for people living in regional and remote Western Australia.

This supports more equitable access to healthcare, reducing the need for travel and ensuring timely diagnosis closer to home.

Supporting justice and community safety

PathWest forensic services support the Western Australian justice system through DNA testing, biological evidence analysis, and coronial investigations.

This work helps uphold public safety, support investigations, and provide answers for families grieving the loss of a loved one.

Supporting all Western Australians, today and tomorrow.

PathWest is an essential part of Western Australia's health system — delivering trusted pathology services that support patient care, protect public health, and strengthen the justice system.

Across metropolitan, regional and remote communities, we ensure access to accurate, timely diagnostics, supporting better health, safer communities, and stronger outcomes for all Western Australians.

As Western Australia evolves, so do we, remaining focused on delivering meaningful impact through innovation, collaboration and care.

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