

PATHWEST Board Communiqué

This Communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the 1 August 2024 Board Meeting.



KEY MATTERS:

Discipline Management Committee Update

Dr. Priyanthi Kumarasinghe, Chief Pathologist presented a progress report on the Discipline Management Committee structure, including developments from the first cycle of meetings. Feedback and outcomes to date have been positive as the committees have addressed challenges, and opened avenues for cross-disciplinary education and learning opportunities. The Board acknowledged the extensive efforts and works by the entire PathWest Executive and staff within the disciplines in achieving this milestone, and eagerly look forward to future updates as the DMC structure matures.

2023/24 Annual Report

Katherine Galvin, Acting Director of the Office of the Chief Executive provided the Board with an overview of the project plan and timeline for the 2023/24 PathWest's Annual Report. A substantial and significant annual project, the draft Annual Report has been submitted and officially approved, moving into the design phase with online interaction and engagement functionality being explored for integration. The Board acknowledged all involved in developing the Annual Report, in particular, Kaye Lirio, Manager, Communications and Ministerial Liaison for her tireless efforts in coordinating this project noting the significant achievement of the 2022/23 Annual Report being nominated for a Lonnie Award.

Operational Plan 2024/25

Dr. Narelle Hadlow, Chief Executive joined by the PathWest Executive presented the 2024/25 Operational Plan to the Board including key functional initiatives and process improvements. The Board was pleased to hear the progress noting the integration and alignment with strategic organisational directives, and key service delivery partnerships. Additionally, the Board was very interested in seeing this plan continue to evolve and meet the changing needs of PathWest and the wider public health system.

STANDING REPORTS:

Finance and Business Performance Report

Mr. Sandy Kerr, Executive Director, Finance, Procurement and Commercial Services presented the Finance and Business Performance Report. This report focused heavily on analysing PathWest's financial performance over the previous year and identifying areas of focus for the 2024/25 financial year moving forward. Key focus areas include improving efficiencies as demand increases, diversified revenue streams, and strategic asset management.

Chief Executive Report

Dr. Hadlow presented the Chief Executive report which included the following issues:

- Mitigation strategies addressing global disruptions to critical supplies.
- Laboratory Information System Enhanced Backup and Disaster Recovery processes
- One PathWest – *alignment of clinical, scientific governance and operations*
- Research governance and ethics review
- Forward infrastructure forecasting and service delivery
- Increased regional service engagement and support opportunities

The Board looks forward to further updates on these issues, particularly around the numerous large projects currently underway.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

People and Culture Committee Report

The People and Culture Committee met on Thursday, 4 May 2024 with key discussions focused on:

- Progress of the Asbestos National Strategic Plan
- Increases to support and training for Pre-analytical Staff
- Public Sector Census Activities Update include the Safe2Say initiative
- PathWest Mentor Program Update
- Progress update on the Aboriginal Strategy Plan and Initiatives

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Since the last Board meeting, our Board Chair and Chief Executive Morning Tea program has begun with events held with our QEII, Fiona Stanley, Royal Perth, and Forensic Biology teams. Board members and Executive alike feel it is of critical importance to meet and engage directly with our staff from all departments and have scheduled many of these events over the coming months leading into 2025 and beyond. We encourage you to join us for an informal chat when the program visits your site.

This month I had the privilege of touring our Diagnostic Genomics facility with Dr. Dimitar Azmanov, Genetic Pathologist; Head of Department of Diagnostic Genomics, learning of the critical work being undertaken, and achievements of our scientific team on site. In addition, I was able to meet with the Director General, Dr. Shirley Bowen, advocating for PathWest and providing an understanding of the specialised services PathWest provides.

NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held in Perth on 5 September 2024.



Ms. Angie Paskevicius
Chair, PathWest Board
1 October 2024