

PATHWEST Board Communiqué

This Communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the 4 April 2024 Board Meeting.



PathWest Denmark – Collection Centre.

Photo left to right: Professor. Tarun Weeramanthri (Deputy Board Chair), Mr. Tony Vis, Ms. Samantha Elder (Board Members), Ms. Lesley Hunter (Laboratory Assistant), Dr. Narelle Hadlow (Chief Executive), Ms. Angie Paskevicius (Board Chair), Ms. Helen Tasker (Laboratory Assistant), Ms. Tracey Brand, Mr. Paul O'Farrell (Board Members), Mr. David Clark (Medical Scientist in Charge)

KEY MATTERS:

Board Trip to Albany and Denmark

In recent years the PathWest Board has begun making annual trips to visit regional collection centres and laboratories. These trips provide Board members with an understanding of the procedures, practices, challenges and allows regional staff to interact with Board members, and give insight into a 'day in the life' of a PathWest regional staff member. This month, Board members and the Chief Executive, Dr Narelle Hadlow, travelled to Albany and Denmark to visit the collection centres and laboratory.

Board members and Dr Hadlow travelled to Denmark on Wednesday, 4 April 2024, and had the opportunity to meet two dedicated laboratory assistants at the Denmark collection centre, Ms. Helen Tasker and Ms. Lesley Hunter. This collection centre is located in the heart of the town and Ms. Tasker and Ms. Hunter gave some background around how the collection centre was set up, describing the benefits of the location not only for PathWest but it's patients and the community as a whole.

An overview of services offered at this location were discussed including some domiciliary services and assistance to local General Practitioners and other health services in the area. The staff at the Denmark collection centre demonstrated great passion and commitment to PathWest and their community. The visit was a great opportunity for Board members and Dr. Hadlow to touch base with two talented, long serving staff members to hear about their experience within the organisation and get an idea of how PathWest functions and serves the town of Denmark.



Photo: PathWest – Denmark Collection Centre street view



Photo: Board Members (Ms. Tracey Brand, Professor Tarun Weeramanthri, Mr. Tony Vis, Mr. Paul O'Farrell, Ms. Samantha Elder), Board Chair (Ms. Angie Paskevicius), Chief Executive (Dr. Narelle Hadlow), Ms. Lesley Hunter (Laboratory Assistant)

The Board meeting was then held at Albany Health Campus on Thursday, 4 April 2024. Mr David Clark, Medical Scientist in Charge, Ms Catherine Till and Ms Monica Neil, Senior Medical Scientists, presented an overview of the Albany Laboratory, and provided a focus on one of PathWest's Strategic Pillars "Engage, develop and inspire our people". Topics that were discussed included:

- The planned move to a 24/7 model at the Albany Laboratory
- Services offered including outpatient collections, domiciliary and prison services to Albany Health Campus, Denmark Health Service, Plantagenet Hospital, Walpole Nursing Post and Albany Regional Prison.
- Albany as the Regional Support Services (RSS) HRplus user acceptance testing site
- Training and development at the Albany site

Ms. Till and Ms. Neil expanded on the training and development offered at the laboratory advising the Board that Albany is well known for its training and development, taking on a high number of students from most of the larger universities. They had reached out to previous students placed at Albany and presented their stories and experiences to the Board including information on where they are now. The Board was pleased to see the career pathways available to staff in this region and remarked that it's great to see staff coming back to the area after their placements.

Mr. David Clark took the Board on a tour of the laboratory allowing Board members and Dr Hadlow to see the space and meet some of the Medical Scientists, Phelbotomists, Laboratory Assistants and Technicians. Board members had the opportunity to hear about the work being done in the Laboratory and see some of it first hand. Mr. Clark explained that the collection centre has recently upgraded the collection chairs to enable staff to better handle emergency situations in which a patient might become unwell or faint. The Board also spoke with some of the staff in the Laboratory who gave insight on some of the processes and testing that is undertaken including Bacteriology, Haematology, Transfusion Medicine, Biochemistry and Molecular Diagnostics.

The Board would like to thank Mr David Clark, Ms Catherine Till, Ms Monica Neil and all of the staff in both Albany and Denmark for taking the time to meet and speak with the Board.





PathWest - Albany Laboratory

Photo left to right: Ms. Jennifer Bonini (Technical Assistant), Ms. Angie Paskevicius (Board Chair), Ms. Tracey Brand (Board Member), Ms. Melissa Tebbutt (Laboratory Assistant), Ms. Alexandra Vogel (Medical Scientist), Mr. Tony Vis (Board Member), Mr. Mark Basa (Laboratory Assistant), Mr. Christian Martin (Medical Scientist), Professor. Tarun Weeramanthri (Deputy Board Chair), Mr. David Clark (Medical Scientist in Charge), Ms. Samantha Elder, Mr. Paul O'Farrell (Board Members), Dr. Narelle Hadlow (Chief Executive), Ms. Bridget Johns (Medical

PathWest Governance Structure Update

Chief Executive, Dr Narelle Hadlow updated the Board on the progress being made around PathWest's governance structure, advising that a decision has now been made and submitted to the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA), and communication has been distributed to PathWest staff. The update included information on what the structure might look like and next steps.

REPORTS:

Chief Executive Report

Dr Hadlow continued her reporting to the Board by presenting the Chief Executive report with an update on HRplus, Emergency Management plans..

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

People and Culture Committee

The People and Culture Committee met on Thursday, 21 March 2024 with the key discussions focused on:

- Leave strategies and staff welfare
- People and Culture Committee Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- Workforce Report
- Training and Development
- Wellbeing
- Your Voice in Health
- Work Health and Safety Report
- WorkSafe Plan Audit
- Excess Leave
- Integrity and Ethics

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The Board trip to Albany and Denmark presented a fantastic opportunity to visit, meet and get to know the staff in this region. It was great for the Board to gain a first-hand look at what the laboratory and collection centre staff do on a daily basis, hear about the services they offer, the environment they work in and their passion for the work they do for their community.

On behalf of myself and the Board I would like to thank all of the staff in Albany and Denmark for welcoming us into their workspace and taking the time to speak with and educate us. It's wonderful to see the hard work, passion and dedication of all of the PathWest staff in these areas.

In addition to the trip to Albany and Denmark, I have continued regular meetings with the Chief Executive, and had the opportunity to attend the WS Lonnie Awards held by the Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) where PathWest was a finalist for Excellence in Annual Reporting. Although we did not receive a win, it was fantastic to see that PathWest was a finalist for the first time. I would like to thank all of the staff that contributed to the 2023-24 PathWest Annual Report, particularly our Communications Manager, Ms. Kaye Lirio who did an incredible job in producing the final report.

NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held in Perth on 2 May 2024.



Ms. Angie Paskevicius
Chair, PathWest Board
11 June 2024