

PATHWEST Board Communiqué

This Communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the April 2023 Board Meeting.



Six recyclable paper cups are used to create this one reusable cup, paid for through recycling biofire containers.

KEY MATTERS:

Blood inventory management

Dr Simon Kavanagh, Head of Discipline, Haematology, delivered an invaluable presentation on a trial program to improve red cell unit management. Given the relatively short shelf life of blood products, PathWest Haematology has employed a Scientist for blood inventory management, entailing monitoring blood unit expiry dates across QEII, Fiona Stanley Hospital and regional centres and transporting red cell blood units prior to expiration, to meet areas of patient demand.

The program improves accountability for blood unit management and achieves excellence by reducing wastage of a limited and valuable resource. The Board congratulates Dr Kavanagh and his team for demonstrating initiative and stewardship in developing and implementing this program.

LIS Infrastructure Modernisation project

The Board received an in-depth briefing from the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) on PathWest's rollout of the Laboratory Information System infrastructure modernisation project including system security and business continuity planning. The CTO will continue to provide briefings to the Board to ensure critical risks are addressed to enhance system performance and security of patient and corporate information.

Environmental Sustainability Agenda

PathWest has significantly advanced its approach to environmental management and is working towards accreditation for *ISO 14001 and related standards: Environmental Management*.

While recycling in PathWest is limited by biological hazards, the PathWest Team has achieved considerable progress within the scope of those items identified as recyclable. The 'recycling economy' was demonstrated by one staff member crushing and recycling Biofire containers to fund the purchase of reusable cups created from recycled paper cups within PathWest.

Sustainable Health Review

The Acting Chief Executive reported on the Department of Health's Sustainable Health Review, reset by the Minister for Health, the Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, following the Health System's response to the State of Emergency for Covid-19, in which PathWest played an integral role.

The Sustainable Health Review aims to transition the Health System from what is a predominantly reactive and acute, hospital-based system, to a more preventative system with a strong focus on early intervention and seamless service delivery at home and in the community through integration of technology and innovation.

The six focal recommendations for staged implementation over the forthcoming 24 months include timely access to outpatient services, models of care for persons with complex medical conditions, a new funding and commissioning model for the WA Health System, digital health, cultural change to

build professionalism and support collaboration, and workforce development and planning. While PathWest is not a lead agency for related recommendations and initiatives, it is a key stakeholder in ensuring a number are achieved. The Board was advised at this early stage of reset on how PathWest is, or will, contribute to the six reset recommendations.

Acting Chief Executive Report

The Acting Chief Executive advised that Collection Centre Supervisors are being appointed at Central Specimen Reception Areas at QEII Hospital, Fiona Stanley Hospital and King Edward Memorial Hospital and that GPS tracking has been introduced in courier vehicles to manage and track irreplaceable specimen samples.

Significant efficiencies have been achieved through increasing use of E-Order trolleys and providing associated support, including a notable 39% increase in Computerised Physician Order Entry rates at Armadale Hospital Emergency Department.

Planning is being undertaken to relocate PathWest laboratory facilities at Osborne Park Hospital to another site within the Osborne Park precinct.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee report identified a number of critical risk management issues including the management of irreplaceable Anatomical Pathology samples, and safety and security and maintenance and upgrade requirements in Collection Centres. As advised by the Acting Chief Executive, considerable improvements have been effected regarding management of Anatomical Pathology samples.

Staff safety and security remains a concern and while steps have been taken to remediate issues in the metropolitan area, addressing similar issues in regional centres requires urgent consideration. A focus on documenting and costing requirements for repairs and maintenance upgrades in Collection Centres and laboratories will shortly be underway.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The transition from Covid-19 management and response to business as usual has seen PathWest undergo a period of considerable transition across operations, Information Technology, clinical services, facilities and equipment. This has required a strong strategic focus and application of capability in a risk informed environment. A number of key projects are underway and the Board is receiving regular briefings to ensure PathWest achieves its strategic objectives.

As Board Chair I have also been involved in discussions to inform a Safety and Quality Strategy for the WA Health System.

NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held in Perth on 4 May 2023



Ms. Angie Paskevicius
Chair, PathWest Board
6 April 2023