



# **PATHWEST Board Communiqué**

# This Communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the 7 March 2024 Board Meeting.



# **KEY MATTERS:**

## **Discussion with the Director General**

The Director General (DG), Department of Health (DoH) WA, Dr D J Russell-Weisz attended the Board meeting to provide the Board with an update, prior to the end of his term as DG, DoH comes to an end. The update included an overview of current budget discussions and upcoming projects within the DoH. The DG and Board members discussed the important role PathWest plays in providing public pathology services to WA Health and the wider community.

The Board thanked Dr D J Russell-Weisz for his support of the Board, the Chief Executive (CE) and PathWest as a whole, in his position as DG over the years.

## Laboratory Information System (LIS) Infrastructure Modernisation Program

Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Mr Tim Evans presented the Board with an update on the LIS Infrastructure Modernisation Program. The Board heard that there have been some delays in progressing with the migration; however, it is now scheduled to occur towards the end of May 2024. The discussion included information on current challenges surrounding the project and discussion around possible back-up and recovery times.

## PathWest Governance Structure Update

The Director, Quality and Safety, Ms. Milana Ranieri presented to the Board on Multi-site Accreditation, and the requirements for PathWest, providing Board members insight into how this relates to PathWest's overall governance structure and how it should be considered going forward.

Following Ms. Ranieri's presentation, the Chief Executive (CE) Dr Hadlow updated the Board on responses received during the recent consultations with the Heads of Departments, Principal Scientists and other staff members, in relation to PathWest's overall governance structure. The CE advised that progress has been made, with an announcement on the decision to be made in due course. The Board will continue to receive updates every month as progress is made.

## **REPORTS:**

## **Finance and Performance Report**

Mr. Sandy Kerr, Executive Director Finance, Procurement and Commercial Services presented the Finance and Business Performance report to the Board. The Board thanked the Finance Team for the

continued improvements in the finance report and look forward to future updates as the report continues to advance and grow.

# **Chief Executive Report**

The Chief Executive report was presented to the Board by the CE, Dr Narelle Hadlow. A few key points from the report were discussed including a one-year trial of Safe2Say, which is an anonymous online platform for staff to report misconduct. The Board looks forward to further updates on this initiative in the future.

# **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

# Forensic Biology Advisory Council (FBAC) Report

As the PathWest Board representative on the Forensic Biology Advisory Council, Professor Christobel Saunders presented the Board with the FBAC report following the 19 February 2024 meeting. The Board heard that there has been an increase in the number of specimens being reviewed, which in turn has assisted with double the number of "offender processed" crimes being solved.. The Board was impressed with these numbers and acknowledged the continued hard work from the PathWest Forensic Biology Department, providing outstanding forensic services to the WA Police Force and the WA community..

# **Finance Risk and Audit Committee**

The Finance Risk and Audit Committee met on Tuesday, 27 February 2024 with the key discussions focused on:

- Business Continuity and Emergency Management Plans
- Cybersecurity Framework and strategy
- ICT Recovery Plan
- Security of Critical Infrastructure (SOCI) Act 2018 Risk Management Program
- Internal Audits Corporate Governance Healthcheck and Quality Assurance Self-Assessment
- Office of the Auditor General (OAG) LIS Application Performance Audit
- Legislative compliance and obligations
- Integrity and Ethics report
- Leave management, types and balances
- Report on active procurements over \$1M
- Core Tender update
- Regular reports including Risk Management dashboard, Audit Dashboard and the Finance and Business Performance Report

## Safety and Quality Committee

The Safety and Quality Committee met on Tuesday, 29 February 2024 with the key discussions focused on:

- Reporting on audit recommendation implementation
- High Risk Results (HRR) Audit and reporting
- Key Assurance Indicators (KAI)
- Lost Specimen Data Report
- Report from the Clinician and Scientific Governance Committee
- Regular reports including the Quality Management report and the Clinical Incident Report

# **Clinical Governance Safety and Quality Forum**

Safety and Quality Committee Chair, Mr. Kevin Taylor attended the Clinical Governance Safety and Quality Forum (the Forum) on 13 February 2024. The Forum is attended by the Chairs of the Safety and Quality Committees from each of the Health Service Providers (HSPs). The Forum focused on key points including:

- WA Safety and Quality Strategic Plan
- Safety and Quality Capability Framework
- SAC1 Investigations and Reports

## **MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR**

Recruitment of the Chief Pathologist position was finalised in late February 2024 and as a result I would like to announce that Dr. Priyanthi Kumarasinghe has been appointed to the position as Chief

Pathologist. Although Dr Kumarasinghe is not new to PathWest, through her work as a Senior Consultant Pathologist in Histopathology, I would like to extend a warm welcome to her as the newest member of the Executive team.

This month I attended the Rare Disease Day morning tea hosted by the Diagnostic Genomics Department and the farewell morning tea for Professor Dominic Spagnolo who has retired after nearly five decades of work in WA pathology under the Anatomical Pathology discipline.

The April Board meeting will be held in Albany, allowing myself, six Board members, the Chief Executive and Board Manager and Board Support to travel to the collection centres and laboratories in both Albany and Denmark. We look forward to touring the collection centres, laboratory and meeting with the staff in the region.

# **NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held in Albany, Western Australia on 4 April 2024.

Ms. Angie Paskevicius Chair, PathWest Board 11 June 2024