



PathWest Board Communiqué

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the December 2021 Board meeting.

Member attendance:

Ms. Angie Paskevicius (Chair)
Dr. Sue van Leeuwen
Mr. Kevin Taylor
Ms. Michele Dolin
Mr. Robert McPhee – *via VC*

Prof. Tarun Weeramanthri
Prof. Gelareh Farshid – *via VC*
Dr. Kim Hames
Ms. Samantha Elder
Prof. Christobel Saunders – *via VC*

In attendance

Mr. Adrian Bautista (A/Chief Executive)
Ms. Analiese Sidhu
Dr. Benhur Amanuel
A/Prof. Nick Patcher
Mr. Mike Smith
Ms. Nicola Chisholm

Prof. Miles Beaman
Dr. Dimitar Azmanov
Dr. Carolyn Grove
Mr. Aus Molan
Ms. Fiona Collins

December 2021 Board Meeting

The December Board meeting was held at the QEII Medical Campus in the Harry Perkins Building on Thursday, 2 December 2021. The Board had a very full agenda for the final meeting of 2021.

Key matters for decision:

- **Finance Committee Terms of Reference**
The Finance Committee endorsed the updated Terms of Reference at the meeting held on 23 November 2021. The Board approved the renewal of the Committee's ToR with no further amendments.
- **Forensic Biology Advisory Council Terms of Reference**
The Forensic Biology Advisory Council endorsed the current Terms of Reference at the meeting held on 9 November 2021. The Board approved the renewal of the ToR with no changes.

Key matters for discussion:

Diagnostic Genomics

The Board heard from Dr Azmanov, Head of Department Diagnostic Genomics; Dr Amanuel, Head of Department Anatomical Pathology; Dr Carolyn Grove, Haematologist PathWest; and A/Professor Nick Patcher, Consultant Clinical Geneticist.

Each presenter provided the Board with an overview of Diagnostic Genomics and the role played by each of their disciplines. It was fascinating to learn of the multi-faceted nature of Diagnostic Genomics and the potential growth that is possible within this space.

The Board looks forward to inviting Diagnostic Genomics back to a future Board meeting to provide further information on future challenges and possible opportunities.

Laboratory Information System

Ms Analiese Sidhu, A/Executive Director Corporate Services; Ms Fiona Collins, A/Service Manager; and Mike Smith, Project Manager provided an update to the Board on the Laboratory Information System (LIS). The presentation highlighted the progress and activity surrounding the LIS and interim transition, an awareness of the risks and issues emerging from the transition to steady state operations, and the actions being actively addressed.

It was interesting to note that since LIS 'Go live' in February 2020, there have been eight major software updates, > 1300 SME config items, > 3000 HPSM incidents closed, > 2000 HPSM requests fulfilled, > 3500 vendor (TMS) tickets closed.

The Board notes that much work continues to be undertaken in LIS, with a number of performance improvements expected to be operational by the first quarter of 2022. We look forward to receiving regular updates from the team as LIS progresses.

Pricing and Costing Project

Mr Aus Molan, A/Director, Procurement and Supplier Relation presented an update on the Pricing and Costing Project (PAC). PAC has been refined in a number of areas over the last few months, with 152MM line items of SOFT having been reviewed and rearranged into a two-dimensional structure.

One of the project deliverables is to increase the number of activities and tests charged as a Fee for Service and to reduce the block funded NCOS and Resources Provided Free of Charge (RPFOC). PAC is not only about revenue, as it is also providing valuable insight on the efficiency and utilisation of different tests which PathWest undertakes.

There has been a significant volume of work in PAC and on behalf of the Board, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Aus and the team for their diligent work in progressing this project.

Committee updates:

Forensic Biology Advisory Council meeting – 9 November 2021

- An operational overview was provided noting (due to COVID-19) there was a spike in serious crime in 2020, which is now starting to reduce; volume crime decreased; however, it is now on the rise with a similar increase in reference samples.
- The progress of the new organisational structure was discussed, and it was noted that a review on position titles was currently underway.
- The lease has been negotiated with Telethon Kids Institute (TKI) and extended to 2029. This aligns with the ChemCentre lease held with Curtin University (linking with the proposed State Forensic Science Centre).
- A fire and life audit was undertaken, which identified the premises (both internal and external) contained Aluminium Composite Panel (ACP) cladding which is flammable. Both WA Health and the WA Police Force have a zero-tolerance policy on ACP

cladding. The remediation is expected to be completed in 2022, with no anticipated impact to operations.

- A number of meetings have been held with key stakeholders regarding the proposed purpose-built facility, all confirming universal support of the purpose-built facility, with feedback being sought from WA Police Force.

Safety and Quality Committee meeting – 10 November 2021

- The Committee received a verbal update from Mr Liam Murphy – Audit and Risk Manager on the Clinical Incidents Internal Audit which highlighted three areas in which recommendations would be presented relating to clarity of roles and responsibilities, Education and Training in the electronic recording system and standardisation of root cause analysis and sharing of lessons learnt. The Committee agreed to participate in the audit as part of an exit interview upon formal completion of the audit.
- C/Professor Beaman provided a review of the Mascie-Taylor Report that had previously been tabled at the Board and he highlighted how key issues relating to hospital services linked to the delivery of pathology.
- The Committee received an update on both the clinical governance framework and on clinical assurance measures derived from the UK College of Pathologists. It was agreed that a recommended Clinical Governance Framework and response to the Assurance measures would be provided to the Committee in early 2022.

Finance Committee meeting – 23 November 2021

- The Board approved the market testing exercise for the acquisition of a Core Laboratory Testing Solution. The procurement plan is the initiating document for the procurement process and the Committee noted the plan is currently in development.
- The Finance Committee received the final evaluation report for the Forensic DNA Profiling Kits and confirmed approval of the preferred suppliers.
- An update on the current state of PathWest Procurement was provided to the Committee. This provided a summary of current contracts, a list of suppliers based on spend amounts, key priorities for the procurement team and long-term key projects.
- Mr Aus Molan introduced the Pricing and Costing (PAC) Project, followed by a summary of outputs to date, with a high-level timeline leading to implementation in July 2022.
- The Finance Committee also received an update on the FY2021/22 Interim Budget.

A message from the Board Chair

As the year quickly draws to a close and I reflect on the past 12 months, I am aware of the enormous amount of change that has occurred, not just within PathWest but also the external environment.

At PathWest, we have embraced this change and the associated challenges and finished the year with many achievements that we can be proud of. Importantly, we have a new Strategic Plan that will guide our future direction until 2025, and we are in the process of recruiting a new Chief Executive. We are also fortunate to have a highly capable and committed Board.

There is much to look forward to in 2022 and I know that all Directors are keen to spend time meeting more staff and learn more about the amazing work that goes on at PathWest.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held at Fiona Stanley Hospital on Thursday, 3 February 2022. On behalf of the PathWest Board, we would like to wish you all the best for the Festive Season with a happy and safe New Year..



Ms. Angie Paskevicius
Chair, PathWest Board
10 December 2021



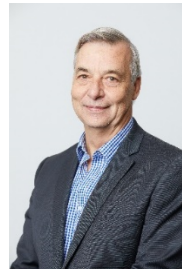
Angie Paskevicius



Tarun Weeramanthri



Sue van Leeuwen



Kevin Taylor



Michele Dolin



Christobel Saunders



Rob McPhee



Samantha Elder



Kim Hames



Gelareh Farshid