

PathWest Board Communique

This communique highlights key discussions and considerations from the Board's February meeting as well as other important information.

Member attendance:

Prof. Christobel Saunders (Chair)

Dr. Sue van Leeuwen

Mr. Kevin Taylor

Ms. Michele Dolin

Dr. Kim Hames

Ms. Samantha Elder

Prof. Gelareh Farshid

Mr. Robert McPhee

Ms. Angie Paskevicius

In attendance

Mr. Joe Boyle (Chief Executive)

Ms. Jessica Clements

Apologies

Prof. Tarun Weeramanthri

February 2021 Board Meeting

Following the WA Government's announcement on Sunday, 31 January 2021, the first PathWest Board meeting for 2021 was held virtually via MS Teams on Thursday, 4 February 2021.

Key matters for decision

Strategic plan

- The Board reviewed and approved the current proposed project plan for the development of the PathWest Strategic Plan.
- It was noted that initial consultation with the PathWest Extended Leadership Team (ELT) to obtain their input to our overarching strategic priorities and goals will take place in February 2021.
- Further targeted internal and external stakeholder engagement will be conducted following this in May and June 2021.

Other key matters for discussion

- COVID-19 update
- PathWest Finance report – December 2020
- Organisation structure update

Board Walks

Our Board Member Angie Paskevicius took the opportunity to visit staff at the Denmark Collection Centre on Friday, 22 January. Angie recounts her visit below:

I was fortunate to spend a very relaxing holiday in Denmark during January. While in Denmark I took the opportunity to visit our PathWest Collection Centre based in one of the main streets.

Ennica and Cathy were on roster the day I visited and provided me with an overview of the service that they provide to the local community which has been operating for more than 20+ years. In fact, Helen who is currently on long service leave, was instrumental in lobbying for

the establishment of the service all those years ago. Lesley is the other member who makes up the team of four who cover the weekly roster.



Pictured: Board member Angie Paskevicius (middle) with members of the dedicated Denmark team

Like many of our regional services, the Denmark team have well established and strong relationships with the local communities that they service in Denmark and Walpole. This includes the local GPs, hospital staff and the broader community. It was very obvious from my conversation with Ennica and Cathy that they are a hardworking and resourceful team who love their work and enjoy making their patients' experience as friendly and comfortable as possible.

A message from the PathWest Board Chair

2021 heralds the start of the first full year of PathWest with a Board in place. Both the PathWest Executive and Board are excited about upcoming developments in the organisation.

In December 2020, the PathWest Board were delighted to be part of the Recognition of Service Award celebrations. It was inspiring to see the careers of so many of our staff over such a long period of time – over 370 PathWest staff members have worked with us for 20 years or more.



Pictured: Board Chair Christobel Saunders, 50-year recipient John Papadimitriou and Chief Executive, Joe Boyle at the Recognition of Service Awards.

Some of the key priorities and opportunities for PathWest in 2021 will be:

Strategic plan

As mentioned above, we have now kicked off the process of developing our first strategic plan. We look forward to working with all staff and stakeholders to encapsulate our goals, values and future expectations within this plan, so we can build on our world class pathology and forensic services and position ourselves to even better serve the community of Western Australia.

Aboriginal employment and well-being

The Board is committed to improving the employment of Aboriginal people and likewise, the well-being of PathWest Aboriginal members of staff. Our work in this space is being supported by Kimberley-based Board member, Rob McPhee through activities in the People and Culture Committee. It is exciting to see some of our new appointments including four (4) Aboriginal cadetships in PathWest. The cadets will be working in Forensic Pathology, Histopathology, QEII Immunology and FSH Biochemistry.

Laboratory Information System

LIS is being embedded and hopefully will start to really show benefits as a 21st century data system as the glitches are resolved.

Research

Innovation and research initiatives are thriving; such as a COVID-19 consortium to look at how our immune response to vaccination plays out.

Key PathWest Projects

- Redevelopment of the State Mortuary.
- Forensic Biology restructure to enhance capabilities, supported by the Forensic Biology Advisory Council being convened.

The last few weeks have again tried the strength of our COVID-19 response and we have performed brilliantly during the testing surge. On behalf of the PathWest Board, we would like to congratulate all staff on this great effort and thank you for your continued dedication.

We look forward to 2021, and as a Board are committed to working with staff and other stakeholders to provide the best health and justice outcomes for our community

Next Meeting

The next PathWest Board meeting will be held on Thursday, 4 March 2021 at Fiona Stanley Hospital.



Professor Christobel Saunders

Chair, PathWest Board

4 February 2021



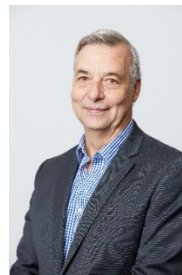
Christobel Saunders



Tarun Weeramanthri



Sue van Leeuwen



Kevin Taylor



Michele Dolin



Rob McPhee



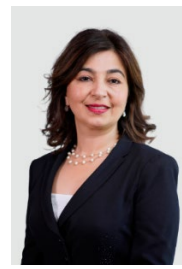
Samantha Elder



Kim Hames



Angie Paskevicius



Gelareh Farshid