

PATHWEST Board Communiqué

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the October 2022 Board Meeting.



The October 2022 Board meeting was held at the QEII Medical Campus in the Harry Perkins Building, during the Noongar season of Kambarang – season of transformation and birth. Longer dry periods and fewer cold front and the height of the wildflower season. The Noongars moved closer to the coast where frogs and freshwater crayfish were caught.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Angie Paskevicius
Kevin Taylor
Christobel Saunders
Samantha Elder
Tony Vis

Deputy Chair Tarun Weeramanthri
Gelareh Farshid
Rob McPhee
Susan Rooney

KEY MATTERS:

Pre-Analytical Services

The Board welcomed Joanna Noronha presenting to the Board on the work at Pre-Analytical Services (PAS) and the strong focus on the Central Specimen Reception Area (CSRA).

Joanna provided a good explanation of the overarching role of CSRA of accepting samples into the laboratory, providing initial sample processing and data handling, and then passing on samples to the respective departments for analysis and reporting. CSRA is a relatively manual area of PathWest and the nature of the work requires close cooperation and teamwork between staff in order for large volumes of work to be processed promptly and accurately. This ensures clinically expeditious turnaround times and the maintenance of sample quality and integrity prior to analysis.

The Board were impressed by the important work being undertaken by Pre-Analytical Services.

Transfusion Medicine

The Quality and Safety Unit at PathWest, recently identified that a proportion of incidents that were reported as Clinical Assessment Reports (CARs) should have been logged as Clinical Incident Management System (CIMS).

A/Chief Pathologist Dr David Smith gave an overview to the Board on the two (2) Adverse Event Reporting Systems, agreeing this was confusing and noting this was a system wide issue.

Chief Executive Update:

The Chief Executive's report this month included updates on the following:

- COVID-19 Transition Plan is progressing well, and resources are in place to manage the forecasted temporary increase in testing numbers following the closure of private pathology collection centres by the end of September 2022.
- The Board discussed the outcome of the Office Auditor General (OAG) exit meeting.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Chairs of the Board Committees provided reports on their most recent meetings and highlighted specific items including:

Finance Risk and Audit

- The Committee welcomed Sandy Kerr as the Executive Director, Finance, Procurement & Commercial Services and accepted his report
- Concerns were raised about the volume of Risk Treatment Action Plans due in December 2022 and February 2023, questioning whether this was achievable, particularly given that they are due during the Christmas and early New Year period.
- The Committee was pleased to learn that revisions to Audit Log due dates and the implementation of several overdue findings reported in July 2022 have eliminated all overdue recommendations and progress updates on high-risk recommendations indicate that all are tracking in line with their due dates.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR:

It is with great sadness that this month I shared the news that our Board member, Michele Dolin, passed away. Michele was a valued member of the PathWest Board since its inception in June 2020 and held the very important role as the Chair of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee. She had a long and distinguished career as a certified practising accountant, a company director, senior executive and a board member of many organisations in the public and private sectors. Michele was extremely passionate about her work and was well known for her commitment and dedication, believing that valuing others is at the centre of success. She was also deeply revered amongst her Board colleagues for the unique way she evaluated challenges, and the depth and breadth of experience she brought into meetings. We were sincerely grateful for Michele's contribution to the Board and the significant impact of her work.

NEXT MESSAGE:

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held at QEII Medical Campus and via MS Teams on Thursday, 3 November 2022.



Ms. Angie Paskevicius
Chair, PathWest Board
6 October 2022