

## PATHWEST Board Communiqué

*This Communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the 5 October 2023 Board Meeting.*



### KEY MATTERS:

#### PathWest Forensic Biology Overview

The Forensic Biology Head of Department Mr. Gavin Turbett attended the October Board meeting to provide members with a briefing on the Forensic Biology structure, workflow and role in providing services to the WA Police and the Department of Justice. The Board heard that Forensic Biology is fully funded by the WA Police and provides services to the whole of the WA Justice system including feeding into the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission.

Mr. Turbett gave the Board an overview of the services Forensic Biology provides including genealogy testing and reflected on the comparisons between the models of services around Australia. There was a discussion around culture within the department and the Board noted the increased workload and the impact this has on Forensic Biology staff.

#### Your Voice in Health Survey

Executive Director, People Capability and Culture Ms. Jo McCran provided the Board with an overview of the response rates, results, and comments from the Your Voice in Health (YViH) survey conducted in March this year, with the Board acknowledging the Public Sector Commission also ran its census at the same time. PathWest's highs and lows throughout the survey results were comparable to the other Health Service Providers (HSPs). Many of the responses were 'undecided' in various areas, which provides a good opportunity for improvement. Ms. McCran advised that each department has identified three to five actions to work on and these actions will be regularly reported to the Minister for Health.

#### Office of the Auditor General (OAG) Opinion

An OAG Exit Meeting was conducted this month. The OAG issued a clean audit opinion on the financial statements, financial controls and key performance indicators of PathWest, with the number of findings related to Financial Controls reduced from 18 last year to 4 findings this year, highlighting the great progress made by HR and Finance in resolving historical audit issues.

The Information Systems (IS) audit for the year ended 30 June 2023 identified 13 findings (9 of which are unresolved from the previous financial year). This is down from 15 issues raised in the previous year. Two of the findings (user access management and network security) had a significant rating. Given this, PathWest has retained the qualification of IT controls raised last year, as this constitutes a material deficiency. IT will investigate ways in which to mitigate the risks associated with this

significant finding while HSS roll out the necessary improvements to the network to address these issues.

## REPORTS:

### Finance and Business Performance Report

Mr. Sandy Kerr, Executive Director, Finance Procurement and Commercial Services presented the Finance and Business Performance Report to the Board. The Board requested a few amendments to the report going forward including a paragraph or some commentary on the financials.

Leave balances were also discussed including the separation of Long Service Leave and Annual Leave balance data. Leave Management and balances will be discussed at the upcoming Finance Risk and Audit Committee with an aim to incorporate it into the Financial Health Framework.

### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

We have a new Board member who commenced her term with PathWest on 18 September 2023. I am pleased to welcome Ms. Tracey Brand. It was also agreed that Tracey will become a member of the People and Culture Committee effective 5 October 2023. On behalf of myself and the rest of the Board, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Tracey.

I would also like to announce the appointment of the new Chief Executive after the finalisation of the recruitment process. The appointment of Dr Narelle Hadlow was announced by the Director General on 11 August 2023. On behalf of myself and the Board, I would like to thank Mr. Sash Tomson for stepping in as the Acting Chief Executive, his professionalism and significant contribution to PathWest over the past year.

### NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held in Perth on 2 November 2023.



Ms. Angie Paskevicius  
**Chair, PathWest Board**  
October 2023