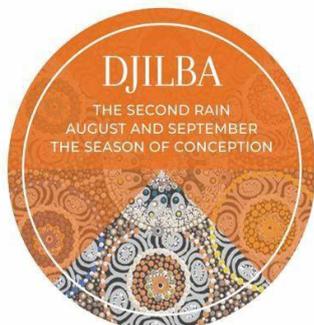


## PathWest Board Communiqué

This communiqué highlights key discussions from the September 2022 Board meeting.



The September 2022 Board meeting was held at the QEII Medical Campus in the Harry Perkins Building, during the Noongar season of Djilba – Season of Conception.

Djilba is a transitional time of year, with some very cold and clear days combined with warmer, rainy and windy days mixing with the occasional sunny day or two.

As the days start to warm up, we start to see and hear the first of the newborns with their proud parents out and about providing them food, guiding them through foraging tasks and protecting their family units.

### KEY MATTERS:

#### PathWest Environmental Sustainability

David Miotti attended the Board meeting to present an overview of PathWest Environmental Sustainability (ES) achievements and new initiatives being introduced. The Board was pleased to hear of the ongoing work and achievements to date, learning that PathWest is leading the way by progressing to Goal 2 in our Strategic Plan.

Achievements/New Initiatives - Strategic Plan Goal one (1) – Reduce our environmental impact through proactive and innovative strategies;

- Audit of recycling & waste -> maximise recycling
- Coffee cups, coffee pods, soft plastic, lab plastic, chemical recycling
- Reuse plastic biohazard bags, xylene, formalin, chemicals
- Reduce electricity, water, printing, paper, dry ice, courier emissions, EVs

Achievements – Strategic Goal two (2) – We will implement best practice environmental management policy, processes and reporting across the organisation;

- Started Environmental Sustainability Steering Group, developed ES policy & framework based on Global Green & Health Hospitals guidelines
- Developing ES parameters for business cases/Briefing Notes – Environmental impact assessments/offsets
- Developed ES reporting initiatives and targets, business reporting
- Developing SharePoint, intranet, Environment Officers, communications plan

The Board thanked David and team for all their work to date and look forward to further updates on these initiatives and progress.

#### Genomic Testing:

The Board was pleased to invite Dimitar Azmanov Genetic Pathologist to the meeting, who provided an interesting and informative session on Genomic Testing. There was a good discussion on the Strategic Vision for Genomic Testing in the Organisation. Dimitar informed the Board of the following exciting translational research projects of high impact on healthcare:

- Mackenzie's Mission - population health project focusing on reproductive health.
- Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) – leading the way in precision medicine.



#### VISION

PathWest is a leader in our field and positively impacts our society and environment through the pursuit of excellence and innovation.



#### PURPOSE

Improving the health, wellbeing and safety of our communities.

- Non-invasive prenatal testing for Rhesus D - population health project focusing on targeted use of precious human product – anti-D immunoglobulin.
- Genomic Diagnostics for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) and Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) in Newborn Screening.
- EpiSign: functional epigenomics for rare diseases.

### Chief Executive Update:

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

- A major outage across all modules of the LIS system occurred on 25 August 2022 due to an issue relating to infrastructure hosting which is managed by Health Support Services (HSS) and its outsourced provider, Atos. During the 4-hour outage, BCP was initiated which included using the LIS Auxiliary servers albeit with some performance issues. Primary servers and full LIS functionality were restored by midday. A full Post Implementation Report will be provided by HSS and Atos.
- FY22/23 Operational Plans have been endorsed at the Executive Committee and organisation-wide communications will commence in September 2022
- PathWest continues to work with WA Country Health Service to support the return to BAU for collection of COVID-19 samples across the State.
- Furloughed staff numbers have also been trending downward as approximately half of the total staff complement have had COVID-19 (an increase from the 40% infection rate as reported in July) with very low reinfection rates.
- Dr Ee Mun Lim has been appointed as Acting Head of Discipline for Regional Services for a period of 6 months.
- Dr David Smith has been appointed as Acting Chief Pathologist for a period of 6 months.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

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

#### Safety and Quality Committee:

The Committee discussed regular safety and quality reports as well as being advised of the outcome of the re-audit against the WorkSafe framework, which has been completed, with PathWest achieving an average rating across the five key Worksafe elements of 64% with the safety management system being deemed "satisfactory to proficient". This represents a significant improvement from the audit in late 1999 where the average rating was 49% with the safety management system deemed to be "inadequate". The Committee congratulated all of those involved with improving the safety management system and looked forward to an action plan to address the recommendations highlighted as part of the audit.

#### People and Culture Committee:

The Committee welcomed Suzie Clews who has joined PathWest from WACHS to act as Aboriginal Workforce Consultant during Daisy Gliddon's maternity leave. The Committee was excited to hear of the priority plans for our Aboriginal Workforce, which included engagement and networking with other entities including the Education Department and providing increased pathways into PathWest for school students. The PathWest Aboriginal Employment Initiatives Plan will be added as a regular agenda item for updates on progress against each action and to provide guidance on future Aboriginal health and wellbeing strategies.

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR:

- It has been another busy month catching up with people within PathWest and finding out more about the excellent work that we do as an organisation. Thank you everyone who I have met with so far, who have been so generous with their time.
- Adrian and I met with the Minister this month who was very interested in the work that we do at PathWest. It was also an opportunity to thank the Minister for supporting the appointment of our two new Directors.
- During the month, Adrian and I were invited to tour the Mortuary with Jodi White to see firsthand how the renovation is progressing. Unlike many major projects, this one is on time and on budget. Well done everyone who is involved in this important work.

## NEXT MESSAGE:

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held at QEII Medical Campus and via MS Teams on Thursday, 6 October 2022.



Ms. Angie Paskevicius  
**Chair, PathWest Board**  
 1 September 2022



Angie Paskevicius



Tarun Weeramanthri



Gelareh Farshid



Kevin Taylor



Michele Dolin



Christobel Saunders



Rob McPhee



Samantha Elder



Susan Rooney



Tony Vis