

PATHWEST Board Communiqué

This Communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the 3 April Board Meeting.



KEY MATTERS:

Cyber Security Presentation

Ms. Serena King, Assistant Director – National Office of Cyber Security, Australian Department of Home Affairs provided a comprehensive presentation to the PathWest Board regarding organisational cyber security and the ever-changing digital threat landscape. Ms. King provided an overview of a number of recent key developments and advancements through the introduction of legislation and resources, as well as elaborating on several high-profile cyber incidents and industry case studies.

Board members learned that 2024 saw a staggering 87,000 cyber-attacks being reported, with email compromise being the largest reported vulnerability. A notable increase in the use of ransomware has also been found with Federal and State government agencies being the top reporters of incidents over the last calendar year.

The Board was very impressed by the information provided and hearing of the work being done by a number of Federal and State agencies to ensure the safety and security of our data and information.

Workload Analytics Dashboard

Mr. Lindsay Adams, Director, Data & Analytics Services presented the newly developed Workload Analytics Dashboard to Board members, providing a live demonstration of how this new digital tool can assist managers and senior officers in real-time budget allocation and data-driven decision-making.

This resource has quickly become a must-use tool for resource management and forecasting, including assisting in the planning of peak testing periods needs such as the upcoming winter period where respiratory testing demand is expected to spike due to forecast increases to flu-like illnesses.

The Board acknowledged the presentation and demonstration Mr. Adams provided, commenting that complex data now being presented in a clear and understandable format marks a significant step forward for PathWest and congratulated all involved in bringing this to fruition.

Kalgoorlie Travel

The Board undertakes travel to regional PathWest facilities as part of its strong commitment to greater engagement with staff across PathWest. This travel helps the Board to better understand the unique challenges our staff in the regions face.

In March 2025, the Board visited PathWest facilities at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital and its community collection centre on Hannan Street. The Board had fortunately managed to align its travel arrangements with the WA Country Health Service Board, enabling positive engagement with the WACHS Board members and executive team and an exchange of ideas and experiences.

The Board was fortunate to receive a presentation from Kalgoorlie's Medical Scientist-in-Charge, which highlighted the effective way PathWest and WACHS staff collaborated at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital to serve the community. A recent critical incident had caused pressures on blood supplies and the services of the hospital. The good relationship between PathWest and WACHS at the site enabled the teams to work effectively together to save the life of a man with a severed arm trauma.

A tour of the lab allowed the Board to hear the positive experiences of staff who had begun their careers with a practical work placement in Kalgoorlie and had enjoyed their experience so much they had made Kalgoorlie their home. The ability to gain multidisciplinary experience and the lifestyle in and around the region were cited as the main factors which attracted medical graduates to the site.

STANDING REPORTS:

Finance and Business Performance Report

Mr. Sandy Kerr, Executive Director, Finance, Procurement and Commercial Services presented the Finance and Business Performance Report. This report focused on the continued financial management against the annual forecast as the final quarter of the 2024/25 financial year begins. The Board acknowledged that PathWest remains stable due to the strong financial leadership throughout the year to date.

Chief Executive Report

Dr. Hadlow presented the Chief Executive report which included the following items:

- Progress update on the Laboratory Information System Modernisation project, looking to usher PathWest into a new digital era.
- Consideration and collaborative preliminary works towards the possibility of consolidating autoimmunity resources at a single site.
- Global growth in genomics testing and PathWest's future in this space.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR:

Along with the Board's trip to Kalgoorlie, March was very productive month for the PathWest Board and Board Committees with all Committees conducting their first meetings for the 2025 calendar year. As the Board Chair, I was pleased to attend all of these meetings and be updated on the progress of the many organisation-wide initiatives and projects relating the Committee's focus areas. Mid-way through the month, PathWest welcomed the incoming Manager, Board Liaison and Coordination, Mr Daniel Govus, who brings a wealth of knowledge and invaluable experience to Office of the Chief Executive and management of the PathWest Board.

I was pleased to attend the first Board Chair and Chief Executive Morning Tea event for the 2025 calendar year, hosted by the team at the Rockingham General Hospital. This event was also the first to be an afternoon tea, better suiting the activities of the busy laboratory. The Chief Executive and I also toured the Collection Centre on the first floor, meeting the amazing phlebotomists and collection staff.

NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held in Perth on 1 May 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ms. Angie Paskevicius
Chair, PathWest Board
April 2025