

PATHWEST Board Communiqué

This Communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the 7 August Board Meeting.



KEY MATTERS:

Digital Pathology Presentation

Dr. Priyanthi Kumarasinghe, Chief Pathologist, presented an update and overview of PathWest's progress towards the adoption and integration of Digital Pathology technology, leveraging whole-slide imaging, digital image management systems, and AI-assisted analysis, to enhance diagnostic services.

The Chief Pathologist highlighted key benefits of this cutting-edge technology, including improved diagnostic accuracy and efficiency; enhanced collaboration, enabling remote consultations across sites and delivering service equity for regional communities; advanced system integration, streamlining workflows and reducing turnaround times; and support for research and educational opportunities for pathology professionals of tomorrow.

The PathWest Board applauded the Chief Pathologist as the driving force behind this initiative, and all involved, for the work being undertaken to integrate this new technology into PathWest's diagnostic processes, advancing services for the Western Australian community.

Operational Plan 2024-25

Dr. Narelle Hadlow, Chief Executive, presented the final quarterly update to close out progress made against the PathWest 2024-25 Operational Plan. Efforts across all PathWest directorates have resulted in the achievement of key milestones and implementation of initiatives including:

- The introduction of the Senior Leadership Operations Group for PathWest management. This group consists of all departmental and discipline senior leaders, providing a collaborative forum for information sharing and operational problem solving.
- Progression of PathWest's robust emergency management capabilities.
- Alignment of operational clinical governance, resulting in newly established Discipline Management Committees which report directly to the PathWest Clinical Scientific Governance Committee.
- Improvements to the cyber security roadmap, including achieving Essential 8 maturity.
- Progress update on the implementation of the Work Health and Safety DoneSafe project.
- Work towards the development of the 2025-26 Operational Plan and integration with the updated Strategic Plan, once finalised.

Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) Innovation Challenge 2025

Ms. Katherine Galvin, Director, Office of the Chief Executive, updated the Board on the success of the 'Ready, Set, Test!' initiative, awarded \$60,000 through the Child and Adolescent Health Services (CAHS) Innovation Challenge 2025.

The 'Ready, Set, Test!' initiative is a transformational and scalable trauma-informed initiative aimed at addressing procedural distress during adolescent pathology collections. It applies various supports including guides for parents, specially designed toys, and activity kits, to reduce negative collection experiences and long-term healthcare avoidance.

The tools are being piloted at Perth Children's Hospital collection centre, with a view to this program being successfully rolled out across the State.

Safety and Quality Committee Report

Mr. Kevin Taylor, Chair of the Safety and Quality Committee, provided an overview of the Board Safety and Quality Committee meeting held Tuesday 26 August 2025.

The Committee reviewed and discussed standing items including the Quality Management Report, Clinical Incident Report, and report from the Clinical Scientific Governance Committee. Additionally, the Committee received a report on the completion of the customer satisfaction survey project over the past financial year, including satisfaction ratings, key insights, findings, and ideas for continuous improvement.

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 budgetary management in closing out the 2024-25 financial year and projecting budgetary priorities for the 2025-26 financial year to align with shifts in system expectations. The Board discussed potential amendments to the proposed budget given the sustained increases in testing activity, and potential management options available to ensure service delivery increases to meet demand.

Chief Executive Report

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

- Progress updates on the development of the Genomics Stewardship Committee.
- Changes to pathology test funding and system-wide works to ensure new tests remain available within the testing schedule.
- Ongoing plans and testing preparations for the upcoming Laboratory Information System migration.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR:

Since the last Board meeting in June, I had the pleasure of celebrating 20 Years of PathWest with staff and senior leaders at both QEII and Fiona Stanley Hospital. This marks a significant milestone for PathWest as it continues to grow as a Health Service Provider and deliver world-class pathology services for the community of Western Australia.

During this time, I was also privileged to meet with the Director General for Health, Dr Shirley Bowen and the Board Chairs of other Health Service Providers to discuss the State's Health budget for the financial year, and key health infrastructure projects on the horizon.

NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held in Perth on 4 September 2025.

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

Ms. Angie Paskevicius
Chair, PathWest Board
December 2025