

## PathWest Board Communique

This communique highlights key discussions and considerations from the Board's November meeting as well as other important information.

### Member attendance:

Prof. Christobel Saunders (Chair)

Dr. Sue van Leeuwen – *via VC*

Mr. Kevin Taylor

Ms. Michele Dolin – *via TC*

Dr. Kim Hames

Prof. Tarun Weeramanthri – *via VC*

Ms. Samantha Elder

Mr. Robert McPhee – *via VC*

Ms. Angie Paskevicius – *via VC*

Prof. Gelareh Farshid – *via VC*

### In attendance

Mr. Joe Boyle (Chief Executive)

Dr. David Speers

Ms. Jessica Clements

Mr. Adrian Bautista

Dr. David Smith

### November 2020 Board Meeting

The November Board meeting was held at Fiona Stanley Hospital on Thursday, 5 November 2020. At this meeting the Board were provided with a very informative presentation by Dr's David Speers and David Smith relating to PathWest's role in supporting the WA COVID-19 response. Mr Kevin Taylor, Board member provided the below synopsis:

At the meeting the Board were informed about the early response of PathWest in developing an in-house PCR test to detect the virus, along with the early adoption of commercially available tests. The protocols and regimen developed resulting in quick turn-around times for results, at a time when the community was anxious to receive the outcome of their tests, are clearly outstanding and a credit to all Staff involved.

The Board noted the commitment to rural and remote communities throughout Western Australia with the positioning of rapid PCR platform permitting testing for COVID-19 at our regional laboratories and more recently, the establishment of testing allowing PathWest to form part of the national collaboration of sewerage surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 (ColoSSoS).

PathWest's assistance to private laboratories to establish their COVID-19 testing, along with regular input to and close interactions with the State Health Incident Command Centre (SHICC), Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) and the Communicable Diseases Network of Australia (CDNA) clearly illustrate that PathWest is considered a high-quality laboratory service relating to testing and the provision of expert advice. PathWest's reputation as being a centre of excellence was further exemplified by the numerous grants that it has been awarded to undertake translational research activities and public health investigations related to COVID-19.

The Board extends its thanks and appreciation for a fantastic job to all PathWest staff; not only for facilitating an outstanding COVID-19 collection and testing response, but also in their commitment to implementing a new LIS across its laboratories at a time when community expectations for pathology testing have never been higher.

### **Key matters for decision**

- PathWest Board Finance Committee Terms of Reference were approved.
- PathWest Board Risk and Audit Committee Terms of Reference were approved.

### **Key matters for discussion**

- Approach for the strategic discussion with Executive on 3 December 2020.
- 2020/21 Budget Deed of Amendment.
- PathWest Finance report – September.
- Laboratory Information System update.
- PathWest 'Board Walks' expected to commence in November.

### **Summary of items for noting**

The Board noted the below documents recently received:

- Office of the Auditor General reports.
- PathWest Board Finance Committee draft minutes from meeting held 6 October.
- PathWest Board Risk and Audit Committee draft minutes from meeting held 7 October.
- Incoming correspondence relating to the compliance of the revised Treasurer's Instruction 323.

### **Committee updates**

#### Finance

- Meeting held on Tuesday, 6 October 2020
- At the first meeting the committee reviewed the August finance report, budget cycle, financial forecast, Office of the Auditor General reports and endorsed the draft Terms of Reference.

#### Risk and Audit

- Meeting held on Wednesday, 7 October 2020.
- At the inaugural meeting the main focus was around the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) representation letter, internal audit, strategic and project risks, compliance issues (legal) and endorsed the draft Terms of Reference.

#### People and Culture

- The first meeting is scheduled for 10 December 2020, with the main focus to review the priorities of the Committee, membership and terms of reference.

#### Safety and Quality

- An inaugural meeting to occur at the end of November / beginning of December 2020.

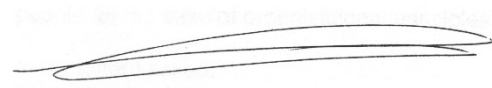
#### Forensic Biology Advisory Council

- The Advisory Council was established following one of the recommendations in the Ross Report. The first meeting was held on Tuesday, 3 November 2020.
- The key discussions were around the funding model, legislative amendments and potential projects.

Finally, if you would like to meet with a member of the Board, please email the Board Secretariat [PathWestBoardSecretariat@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:PathWestBoardSecretariat@health.wa.gov.au)

**Next Meeting**

The next PathWest Board meeting will be held on Thursday, 3 December 2020 at Fiona Stanley Hospital.



Professor Christobel Saunders  
**Chair, PathWest Board**  
11 November 2020



Christobel Saunders



Tarun Weeramanthri



Sue van Leeuwen



Kevin Taylor



Michele Dolin



Rob McPhee



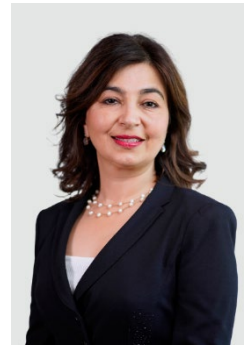
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