

## The role of the AAPP

The AAPP is the national peak body and voice for private pathology in Australia. Our members are committed to helping patients access the highest quality pathology services. The AAPP and its members continue to build safe, accessible, cost effective and affordable pathology services throughout Australia.

## Need more information?

If you'd like to know more about pathologists – and the ongoing role they play in healthcare – please visit [www.pathologyaustralia.com.au](http://www.pathologyaustralia.com.au). The site provides up to date information about issues that affect you.



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An initiative of the Australian Association of Pathology Practices Inc.

# The role of Pathology in Australia



To keep up to date with changes to the pathology industry, visit  
[www.pathologyaustralia.com.au](http://www.pathologyaustralia.com.au)

**Pathology**  
AUSTRALIA

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When you see your GP today, there's a chance they may recommend a diagnostic investigation so they can better plan your treatment. You'll be familiar with some of these. These pathology investigations are performed by the many medical specialist Pathologists operating behind the scenes to ensure your health is maintained.

There are hundreds of us working around the nation – and there are collection centres within reach of the majority of the people around you now.

Pathologists play a vital role in Australia's health system. We strive to maintain our high professional standards and ensure that your GP has quick access to accurate and reliable pathology test results.

Pathology underpins modern medicine. In all, about 70% of all medical diagnoses are confirmed by pathology investigations – including the early detection of cancer. The most common chronic diseases are managed using pathology investigations and virtually all preventive health programs rely on our services.



## Future pathology services



Pathology services represent over 33% of all medical services provided under Medicare, and account for less than 15% of all Medicare expenditure.

So the Australian Association of Pathology Practices (AAPP) is disappointed with the recent Federal Budget announcement that \$180 million over the next 4 years will be removed from pathology patient rebates. This announcement means that three important items have been deleted from the Medicare Benefits Schedule:

- Item 66515 – 6 or more tests related to, among other tests **Kidney and liver function tests**
- Item 66710 – 6 or more test related to **Hormones and associated proteins tests**
- Item 69399 – 6 or more related to **tests for antibodies to infections: for example, bacteria or viruses**

Pathology testing services are crucial to ensuring your ongoing health and well being. Bowel cancer screening programs, pre-diabetes and cholesterol

tests, women's health programs – such as breast screening, biopsies and pap smears – and men's health programs, are a few important examples that continue to be funded under Medicare.

But the Australian health system is undergoing major changes and the Federal Government is gearing up to respond. A new package of Federal Government preventive health reforms is set to be rolled out and the AAPP is working to ensure that these reforms incorporate affordable and accessible pathology services of the highest quality. It is crucial that pathology be included so that you, your partner, your carer or your parents can continue to manage medical costs.

For 20 years, the AAPP has worked cooperatively with the Government to ensure access to affordable, high-quality pathology testing. As a result, the costs of a majority of pathology services – services that you rely on – have fallen. Pathology industry innovations, such as automation, and increased efficiency and productivity, have contributed to this.

Savings of more than \$3 billion have been generated over the past 10 years alone. You should be rewarded for these savings through ongoing and fair Medicare rebates for these tests.

We want to work with the Government to find a solution. We need to ensure the ongoing health and well being of patients. We are committed to delivering the right outcome for you – and those sitting next to you in the waiting room today.

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