

Media Release

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Patients win in Pathology announcements

Pathology Australia has today welcomed the Coalition's election policy announcement ensuring affordable access to world-class quality pathology services for all Australians.

The Coalition has this evening released a clear statement that provides the means for the pathology sector to more readily maintain the current high rate of bulk billing of pathology tests for their patients.

Liesel Wett, CEO of Pathology Australia said: "We have been working in collaboration with Government on a solution that will ensure the sustainability of the sector. The announcement by the Coalition today includes both a deferment to the changes to the bulk billing incentive and a workable solution to the high rents being paid for pathology collection centres. This in turn, will allow the sector to maintain current billing practices, in the best interests of patients".

"The commitment by the Coalition to ensure affordable access to pathology services is in the best interests of patients, the pathology sector and the Government. It will ensure that competition is based on service and quality and will foster a more diversified sector where patient choice will be enhanced".

As a result of the announcement, Pathology Australia says thank you to nearly 600,000 Australians across the country who have signed the **Don't Kill Bulk Bill** petition, assisting the pathology sector to have patients' voices heard, and for the Coalition to provide a means to address their legitimate concerns. Pathology Australia's petition will be closed today.

"This is a significant announcement for patients and the pathology sector. The pathology profession will continue to strive towards highest quality and efficiency levels, in line with historical performance to date and as recognized in the recently released report on the sector by Ernst & Young¹. This is a great win for patients and for the future sustainability and vibrancy of the pathology sector in Australia", said Ms Wett.

Pathology is an essential medical service in the healthcare system. Seventy per cent of medical decisions and 100% of cancer diagnosis rely on pathology tests.

Pathology Australia is the peak body representing private Pathology in Australia.

For further comment:

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