

The Value of Public Pathology



Public Pathology
AUSTRALIA

Pathology is essential in the prevention, early detection, diagnosis, management, treatment and understanding of disease. The majority of clinical decisions require information provided by pathology testing.

Public pathology (government owned and operated pathology services):

- Provide comprehensive access for all patients;
- Provide high quality, integrated care;
- Provide expertise in complex medicine;
- Help protect our communities;
- Undertake research, education and training; and
- Operate for the benefit of the public health system and its patients.

Provide comprehensive access for all patients



Public pathology organisations have an extensive network of laboratories and technologies to provide access to the tests and analysis patients need, regardless of their income and location.

Public pathology provides 24/7 services in teaching hospitals and major centres as well as services in regional and remote settings.

‘For all of the people, for all of the day and for all of the night’

Provide high quality, integrated care



Public pathology provides high quality services across all settings: from in the community, to the hospital. Being linked directly to hospitals enables integrated care and greater continuity of care. This leads to efficient diagnosis and timely access to the care required to achieve the best possible outcomes for patients.

‘Public pathology lies at the heart of health care and clinical pathways’

‘Public pathology is part of the patient’s healthcare journey’

‘Public pathology is part of the clinical team’

Putting patients first

Provide expertise in complex medicine



Public pathologists are experts in diagnosing patients with the most complex and life-threatening conditions (e.g. in public hospital emergency departments, intensive care and oncology units). Public pathology develops and are often the sole provider of specialised tests not funded through the Medicare Benefits Schedule. Public pathologists and scientists are some of the most prestigious and well-regarded experts in their fields. Their expertise leads to more effective, personalised care.

‘Public pathology enables evidenced based clinical care’

‘Public pathology provides specialist expertise in complex care’

Help protect our communities



Public pathology plays a vital role in responding to public health emergencies at the local, state and national levels. Public pathology has extensive experience working with other agencies to deliver effective response efforts. Public pathology has surge capacity when it is needed most. Public pathology helps prevent and control the spread of disease in our communities every day.

‘Public pathology has an essential public health role’

Undertake research, education and training



Public pathology is innovative and translates research into new testing methods that improve healthcare. Public pathologists and scientists collaborate with clinical teams to inform new models of care and help ensure appropriate and timely use of pathology. Public pathology provides teaching and training to support the development of new staff and enhance the skills of healthcare professionals. All leaders in public and private pathology have at some stage been trained in the public pathology system.

‘Teaching medical and science students through to specialists, within and beyond the laboratory’

‘Leaders in clinical and treatment innovation’

Operate for the benefit of the public health system and its patients



Public pathology operates for the good of the broader government funded health system.

Public pathology is committed to patient safety, quality assured services and improving health outcomes for patients. Timely, accurate diagnosis leads to better and faster clinical decisions. Public pathology focusses on rational, evidenced based testing. This drives efficiencies and provides value for money.

Public pathologists provide direct care to patients on wards or in outpatient clinics. Public pathologists and scientists also have wider clinical governance, health policy and management responsibilities in the health system.

‘Public pathology is a frontline clinical service’

‘Patient service, patient focus’

‘Decisions for patients, not decisions for profit’.