

Media Release

Subject: SA Pathology to remain in public ownership

Date: 22 April 2020



Public Pathology
AUSTRALIA

Public Pathology Australia responds to the statement by the South Australian Premier and Health Minister about the ownership of SA Pathology on 22 April 2020.

Statement

Public Pathology Australia's President Dr Petra Derrington stated:

Today, the [South Australian Premier and Health Minister stated](#) that SA Pathology will remain in public ownership. I thank the SA Government for providing service certainty to SA Pathology and acknowledging that SA Pathology delivers "exceptional value" to South Australians.

I would like to specifically acknowledge the efforts of Executive Director Mark McNamara and Clinical Services Director Dr Tom Dodd and the team at SA Pathology who clearly demonstrated that SA Pathology is a vital service to South Australians – providing the pathology tests they need when and where they need them.

In just twelve months, SA Pathology has delivered on wide ranging reforms saving the Government millions of dollars. This is in addition to leading the testing response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Public pathology providers like SA Pathology have been at the forefront of testing during the COVID-19 pandemic – having rapidly developed testing methods before patients presented with COVID, to expanding their capacity to test and providing innovative delivery models such as drive through clinics.

It is no wonder that Government has acknowledged "SA Pathology has become an organisation of international standing in the manner it has implemented the State Government's strong plan to counter the coronavirus pandemic."

In addition to providing public health tests such as COVID tests, public pathology services such as SA Pathology provide comprehensive access to the full range of pathology tests that patients need 24/7. This includes testing for complex and rare conditions, and urgent testing in Emergency and Intensive Care Units. Public pathology providers also undertake research, teaching and training to future proof health services.

The decision announced today clearly demonstrates the value of pathology services in government ownership.

Contact for comment

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Background

Public Pathology Australia is the peak body for government owned and operated pathology services. www.publicpathology.org.au

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