

MEDIA RELEASE

16 March 2021:

Australian Pathology welcomes Government continued commitment and support for COVID-19 response

The President of Australian Pathology, Mark Neeham, has welcomed the Commonwealth Government's commitment and ongoing support for COVID-19 pathology testing.

The Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday that COVID-19 pathology testing will continue to be funded through Medicare, with no out of pocket costs to Australians, ensures Australia will continue to lead the world in its response to the pandemic.

"Working in partnership with the Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, and his team, the private pathology laboratories have been responsible for 60% of all COVID-19 tests in some states over the past year, providing drive-through and pop-up clinics within hours of a case or new hotspot" said Mark Neeham.

"In addition, the capacity provided and the rapid turnaround times in private laboratories and working with public health track and trace, are the envy of the world"

"This partnership between the Government and private pathology laboratories has been critical in keeping Australians safe and preventing the mass outbreaks we have seen overseas."

"Of course none of this would have been possible without the professionalism and dedication of the 35,000 people working in pathology, especially those who have, every single day, stood and worked at testing sites and clinics, in full personal protective equipment. We all say thank you."

ENDS

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