

MEDIA RELEASE

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MEDIA STATEMENT

New Year, new time for health checks says Australian Pathology

The peak body representing Australia's private pathology services, Australian Pathology, today supported calls from Health Minister, The Hon Greg Hunt MP, to make time with a new year to schedule all necessary health checks. These include important healthcare services such as cancer screening and immunisations. Many of these tests have taken a back seat role in the Pandemic, and now need to be our top healthcare priorities.

Many Australians have been in lock downs, working from home, or trying to stay COVID-safe. We have put off necessary tests for cancer, important scheduled immunisations and other preventative health checks. Now, with a new year, Australian Pathology encourages all Australians to make the time to schedule their health tests and checks.

Australian Pathology CEO, Liesel Wett, said that while many Australians knew the importance of tests for cervical cancer, bowel cancer and prostate cancer, many had deferred these tests during the pandemic.

"Many of us did the right thing by others, not wanting to spread COVID-19 and stayed home during the Pandemic," Ms Wett said.

"That has meant that many essential cancer screening tests have been deferred as we stayed safe at home. Now, with a new year, it is the time to add these essential tests to our New Year resolutions and schedule these healthcare services.

"Prevention is better than cure. We know that early detection through screening for some cancers can not only save lives, but mean that our diagnosis is more manageable and treatable.

"100% of all cancers are diagnosed by Pathology. Australian Pathology members deliver the majority of pathology services to Australians. Our Pathology is world class. We are ready to help Australians with their New Year resolutions by getting back on track with their regular health checks and early detection programs.

"We support the Minister for Health, Greg Hunt's calls for Australians to make the decision to get their tests. A simple blood test could mean the difference you make for your family and for a healthier future."

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