

Warning Against Tendering Precedence

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) has expressed extreme concern about the precedence of tendering pathology services within New Zealand, and the use of cost as a dominant selection criterion.

The Vice President of the RCPA in New Zealand, Dr Richard Steele, says the ongoing impact of the disruptive commercial and legal disputes that have surrounded the tendering process has been dramatic in New Zealand, and highly destabilizing for the entire medical system.

“The delivery of high quality medical care is complex and at risk,” says Dr Steele.

“Coupled with the fact that pathology services are at crisis point internationally due to workforce shortages, the situation in NZ has been made worse by the incredibly destabilizing tendering process.

“We are in grave danger of losing many of our highly qualified and competent pathologists to overseas roles, where their professional skills are in high demand.

“Medical services cannot be “tendered” in a fashion similar to laundry services – there is too much at stake.

“A constant myopic focus on the bottom line, with little regard for quality assurance practices, continual diagnostic and screening development and innovation, and the stability of a highly skilled professional workforce, will have seriously detrimental effects on the provision of high quality healthcare diagnostics for New Zealand.

“The impact of this at the community level is just starting to be felt, but when it gains momentum, New Zealanders won’t know what’s hit them in terms of healthcare.”

27 February 2009

Media Enquiries

Dr Richard Steele
RCPA
Mobile: 02 7286 7553

or

Andrea Plawutsky
S2i Communications
+61 (419) 970 984