

## **Patients identify the ideal pathologist**

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) has today released a new position statement and comprehensive checklist which outlines patients' expectations of pathologists and the pathology profession. The checklist was developed in close collaboration with the RCPA's dedicated Lay Advisory Committee, and will be utilised to develop and revise future curricula for the training of new pathologists. The collaborative approach of the RCPA and the Lay Advisory Committee is the first of its kind and has identified consumers' expectations of pathologists, which is a completely new approach.

Dr Michael Harrison, President of the RCPA, said,

"The RCPA has always prioritised the engagement of consumers for their input. As a result, the RCPA takes the Lay Advisory Committee's feedback and input on a range of matters very seriously. We are committed to the promotion of excellence in the pathology profession and engaging with consumers to understand their priorities and expectations. Pathology affects everyone, with over half of all Australians having at least one pathology test each year. Therefore the Lay Committee provides a valuable voice that ensures Australian consumers are heard."

The position statement recommends pathologists will:

1. Demonstrate and maintain competence
2. Be respectful of patients
3. Treat specimens respectfully
4. Foster constructive collegiality and teamwork within the laboratory
5. Be part of the medical team looking after patients
6. Provide accurate and timely results
7. Be professional in their approach
8. Be involved in appropriate accreditation and quality activities
9. Provide value for public and private expenditure.

Dr Debra Graves, CEO of the RCPA, says the Committee's primary purpose is to provide the RCPA with input and guidance from a consumers' perspective, and to support the College in responding to Australians' questions regarding pathology.

"The Lay Committee helps the RCPA engage with their end user, i.e. the consumer or patient, in terms of understanding the perceptions and level of knowledge in the community regarding pathology. The committee consists of a combination of lay people and pathologists from the public and private sector, and from different pathology disciplines. Many of our members, including the pathologists, are also on other committees and advisory boards, and they take the information and guidance from our meetings back to their various committees."

The RCPA's patient expectations of pathologists position statement was today released at an International Pathology Day 2016 event in Surry Hills, Sydney attended by members of the College,

medical professionals and guest speakers including journalist, Sandra Sully and Greater Western Sydney Giants player, Sam Reid.

For more information, visit our website [www.rcpa.edu.au](http://www.rcpa.edu.au) to see the full position statement. Alternatively, for general pathology updates, visit the RCPA on Twitter - @PathologyRCPA - and [Facebook](#) #ValueOfPathology #RCPA #pathology #IPD2016

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**About the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia:**

The RCPA is the leading organisation representing pathologists in Australasia. Its mission is to train and support pathologists and to improve the use of pathology testing to achieve better healthcare.

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