

MEDIA RELEASE

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**THE RCPA STRONGLY SUPPORTS
'PATHOLOGY APPROVED COLLECTION CENTRES – STRENGTHENING COMPLIANCE'**

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) strongly supports the Federal Government's new measure, 'Pathology Approved Collection Centres-strengthening Compliance', which was announced last night as part of the 2017-2018 Federal Budget.

Costing AUD\$18 million over four years, the new measure will enforce the existing legislation governing arrangements between doctors and pathology providers. It will also strengthen compliance activities by using data analytics to improve investigation of arrangements for approved pathology collection centres.

Dr Michael Harrison, President of the RCPA, said,

"The RCPA is very supportive of the Federal Government's announcement last night, which will assist in ensuring high quality pathology services remain available to patients across the country. It's a step in the right direction and is a measure that is required in order to safeguard against collection centres being at risk of closure, cutbacks or unnecessary strain on the profession due to unsustainable rentals."

"This is a win for patients, their referring doctors and the pathology profession. High quality pathology services should remain affordable to all Australians, regardless of their postcode. Helping 24 million Australians to manage their health, is what drives Australia's 1,700 pathologists."

The rents of collection centres soared significantly since the deregulation of the number of collection centres allowed in Australia, challenging the viability of many operators, particular smaller laboratories. The new announcement will see a dedicated investigative unit established in the Department of Health to assist doctors and pathology providers comply with the provisions in the existing legislation. The department will undertake further education activities, including supplying updated provider education materials.

"Pathology practices should now be able to invest more in new tests and new technologies. The RCPA congratulates the broad group of health professionals and consumer advocates on the way they worked constructively for this positive outcome," said Harrison.

The RCPA is the leading organisation representing pathologists in Australasia and will continue to support pathologists and improve the use of pathology testing to achieve better healthcare for all Australians.

For more information on the RCPA, visit www.rcpa.edu.au or see our updates on [Facebook](#) or Twitter - [@PathologyRCPA](#) [#RCPA](#) [#pathology](#) [#MedicinesPathology](#).

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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.



Media enquiries:

Dr Debra Graves
Chief Executive Officer
The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
+61 2 8356 5858
Debrag@rcpa.edu.au

Linsey Brown
Senior Account Director & GM
S2i Communications
+61 2 9262 4766
Linsey@s2i.com.au