



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF PATHOLOGY PRACTICES INC

**Contact details for the  
Minister for Health and Ageing and the  
Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing**

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## Pathology is vital to early diagnosis and continuing patient care

It's our job to investigate the samples your doctor sends us, make diagnoses, and report the results to your doctor in a timely manner.

Pathology is also important in assessing if your treatment is working.

A single test sample may be examined by as many as 23 highly-skilled and trained pathologists (medical doctors) and scientists.

At least 70% of all medical decisions, and every single cancer diagnosis, are based on pathology tests.

Without accurate test results your doctor cannot make accurate decisions

## HELP KEEP PATHOLOGY TESTING AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF PATHOLOGY PRACTICES INC

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AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF PATHOLOGY PRACTICES INC

## Government cutbacks are placing Your health at risk

Many people are going without vital tests, especially for

- cervical cancer
- prostate cancer
- diabetes
- cholesterol and lipids



The government has reduced Medicare rebates for pathology testing.

More patients are having to pay fees to have testing for breast cancer, tiredness, prostate cancer, diabetes and many other diseases.

Many people are choosing not to have these tests performed.

The number of tests for cervical cancer and prostate cancer is falling, even though the population is increasing and people are getting older with more chance of getting these diseases.

Uncertain future  
for bulk billing  
due to falling  
pathology rebates.

A first principle of our health system is to prevent disease and detect health problems as early as possible. This has been proven to save lives.

These Medicare cutbacks are working against what we are trying to achieve in healthcare – prevention and early, effective treatment.

The government must review its Medicare cutbacks on pathology tests and stop ignoring the impact the cutbacks are having.

## What can you do?

We need to let those in charge know that we are worried about how these cutbacks are affecting us.

Please do at least one of the following:

- Sign the message on the next page of this leaflet and place it in the box at your pathology collection centre.
- Use the message on the next page to write a letter to the health spokespersons of both political parties. Their addresses are on the back of the following page. You can also use this message to help you write a personalised letter to your local Member of Federal Parliament.
- Go to [www.aapp.asn.au](http://www.aapp.asn.au) and register your name on a petition to your local MP expressing your concern.

By taking action now we can make a difference.  
We must keep pathology affordable for everyone!

## To my local Member of Federal Parliament

I am very concerned that the reduction in Medicare rebates for GPs and for pathology tests, as well as other changes to pathology collection centres, will lead to increased costs for patients like me.

I am worried that these increases could mean that I and my family and friends may not be able to afford to have the tests we need to prevent or manage health problems.

As you are my local Member of Federal Parliament, I would like you to know that I am worried about these changes to funding of pathology testing. Australia has a very good healthcare system and we don't want it ruined by poor decisions. I want maintained the affordable, safe and reliable system with easy access we have had in Australia over the past twenty years.

Please let the Health Minister know our health is important to us and pathology testing is important to our health.

We expect the Minister to work with private pathology providers to ensure we have continued access to a safe, affordable and reliable healthcare system.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



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