



## NATA backs changes to pathology and diagnostic imaging sectors

**Sydney, Friday, Jul 16, 2021** - NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) today welcomed the Australian Government Department of Health's announcement that it will transfer accreditation functions for pathology and diagnostic imaging to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

The formal arrangement, which commenced on July 1, 2021, will see the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care oversee accrediting agencies, including NATA, across the pathology and diagnostic imaging sectors, and play a key role in advice related to accreditation standards and supporting expert accreditation committees in the development and maintenance of accreditation standards and guidance.

NATA Chief Executive Officer, Jennifer Evans, said: "NATA looks forward to an open and collaborative working relationship with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care on accreditation of pathology and diagnostic imaging.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that pathology services have never been more important with NATA/RCPA (Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia) accreditation for COVID testing based on international and national standards playing a vital and underpinning role in ensuring consumers, Health Departments and agencies such as Border Force, can reliably trust these services."

NATA has almost 40 years of experience in the pathology space, and one recent way NATA has supported the sector has been through providing free accreditation for SARS-CoV-2 testing. Together NATA and RCPA have accredited 161 labs so far, for SARS-Cov-2 testing, the gold standard PRC testing, which has been vital in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Evans added: "NATA is proud to play a pivotal role in the pathology area with 775 facilities currently accredited and we look forward to working with the Commission on future opportunities and to better support safety and quality across this important portfolio".

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### Notes to editors

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### About NATA

*National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) provides accreditation for laboratories to ensure testing results can be relied on and trusted. As Australia's sole internationally recognised accreditation authority, NATA's role is to uphold the national standards of technical competence for those delivering products or services to the general public. Through its extensive network, NATA provides assessment, accreditation and training services to laboratories and technical facilities.*

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