



Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding

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Message

Having worked in the NSW public pathology laboratory system for over 39 years I have seen that there is a disparity between a service that is seen by the public and considered 'front line' by them and what is a 'back room' function that is neither thought about or seen by the public.

The Health system funding is therefore allocated primarily to those considered to be front line.

Pathology in the NSW public system is governed under NSW Health Pathology which is a separate 'group' service providing services to NSW public hospitals.

The cost able to be charged back to the hospitals for services provided is limited and as such provisions for capital works such as new labs or new equipment are low on the priority list when compared to a new CT machine for radiology or many new pieces of equipment for the wards or ED.

Similarly the workload per staff member in pathology labs today is unsustainable. Other areas of the health service have appropriate measures of 'reasonable' workload however the lack of funding is always given as a reason not to employ more staff to alleviate staff workload and hence stress.

Equitable funding across all departments within NSW health as well as equitable measures of what is a reasonable workload are what is urgently needed to address what essentially is currently a 'broken' system.

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