



Stat Report 2015/25

State to probe pathology amid union accusations

THE State Government has launched a review of the services contract between Latrobe Regional Hospital and a private pathology company, amid union accusations of a decline in standards.

The review will aim to ensure all parties are meeting the terms of the contract and the community is receiving the best pathology services available, a spokesperson for Acting Health Minister John Eren said.

The Medical Scientists Association of Victoria claims major operational changes by Dorevitch Pathology, such as shifting "vast amounts of testing" out of the LRH laboratory, have impacted on the company's capacity to meet quality and service standards.

The MSAV claims the hospital "failed to act".

Union secretary Paul Elliott argues that Dorevitch has violated the pathology services contract which he says includes a requirement for pathology testing and services to be performed in the LRH lab.

"The closer the testing is to where treatment occurs, the quicker the turnaround time is," Mr Elliott said.

"If you move a sample to Heidelberg, you are going to risk turnaround times and the quality of healthcare in hospital."

In June, the union hit out at Dorevitch over a decision to transfer tissue processing services from the hospital lab to Melbourne, arguing it would increase turn-around times and affect patient care.

But Dorevitch said the centralisation of its histology service would in fact reduce turn-around times, while LRH said it had been assured its tests would receive the highest priority at the Melbourne lab.

Last week, Dorevitch Pathology chief executive Neville Moller declined to respond to the union's claims and questions from The Express.

However, he said he welcomed the review.

LRH chief executive Peter Craighead welcomed the government review by Paxton Partners and denied union claims healthcare standards had been allowed to drop at the hospital.

"We have already begun working with the consultants and have full confidence in their review of the management of the pathology contract." Mr Craighead said.

"Unlike Mr Elliott, we respect the process and won't be drawn on commentary about the delivery of pathology services by Dorevitch Pathology until we know the outcome of the review."

Mr Craighead labelled Mr Elliott "mischievous", saying he was attempting to use LRH, its services and patients in his industrial campaign with Dorevitch.

He said LRH had recently undergone an extensive accreditation process measuring the hospital's performance in delivering a high standard of healthcare.

"A survey team from the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards examined our policies and processes and determined we had satisfactorily met core national standards and exceeded the level of quality in some areas," Mr Craighead said.

"LRH has spent considerable time and resources responding to the MSAV's requests for information and comments in the media and I hope the Paxton Partners review will put some clarity around some of the issues which are of concern to Mr Elliott and the union's members."

Health Purchasing Victoria, the statutory authority that works with hospitals to manage collective contracts, said it acted in collaboration with health services.

"With all tenders, HPV is guided in the development of specifications because we recognise that it is health services themselves who best understand their diverse clinical and operational requirements," HPV acting chief executive Eileen Keane said.

"Every tender response is evaluated by a reference group, comprising of health service clinical and subject matter experts, who develop the strategy, market approach, selection criteria, evaluation and recommendation.

"HPV's tender process is a robust and competitive process which includes a range of selection criteria, of which contract performance is included. Contract performance is managed by the health services."

Ms Keane said the authority would work with the department of health and human services to address relevant findings or recommendations from the state government review.

[This article, by Stephanie Charalambous, appeared in the Latrobe Valley Express on 30 July](#)

VPA Professional Development Seminar

Turning Psychological Practice into Research

The VPA's next Professional Development Seminar and its Annual General Meeting will be held on 16 September starting at 12pm at the Treacy Centre, Parkville.

Seminar Overview:

Associate Professor John Farhall will be the keynote speaker for the next VPA professional development session on 16 September on the topic, *Turning Psychological Practice into Research*. As well as John's keynote address, this session will include project presentations by members from a range of practice areas. We will conclude with a problem-solving panel, for which others who have experienced the pleasure and pain of turning practice into research will join John.

About Associate Professor John Farhall

Dr John Farhall holds a joint appointment as Associate Professor at the School of Psychology and Public Health at La Trobe University and Consultant Clinical Psychologist at North Western Mental Health. His role aims to build bridges between the public mental health services and university research and training. His primary interests are in innovations in mental health care, psychopathology, therapy for psychotic disorders and evidence-based practice. His research is centred on understanding psychotic disorders, including evaluating and disseminating evidence-

based psychological treatments for people who have psychotic disorders and understanding the disorder processes those treatments seek to address. His research experience includes multicentre large scale randomized controlled trials, qualitative studies, postgraduate and Honours student projects, unfunded projects in mental health services and local routine evaluations.

Seminar Program:

12.00 - 12.30 Registration and Lunch

12.30 -1.00 VPA Annual General Meeting

1.00 - 2.00 Keynote Address: Associate Professor John Farhall 'Turning Psychological Practice into Research'

2.00 – 3.00 Members' Projects: Session One

3.00 – 3.20 Afternoon Tea and Networking

3.20 – 4.00 Members' Projects: Session Two

4.00 – 4.30 Problem-solving panel (Associate Professor John Farhall + others)

Calls for Expressions of Interest to Present – We want your input!

1. Present your project: No matter how large, small, complete or incomplete, part of a higher degree, a larger study or a practice improvement project and from any area of psychological practice. If it involves turning your practice into research, then members want to hear about your project!

Fill out the form ([PDF](#) or [Word](#)) on the website and return it by 31st of July.

We will advise VPA members of the final program by mid-August. If we can't schedule all submissions for oral presentation (20 mins) then an alternative way of circulating your project will be offered.

2. Bring your ideas, problems, obstacles, opportunities and questions – test the problem solving skills of our expert panel.

Contact the Union on 9623 9625 or at enquiry@vicpsych.org.au to register for this PD, to submit your project to present at the PD or if you have any questions.



Online Continuing Professional Development Has Arrived

In last week's STAT Report we provided the wrong address to access the online Continuing Professional Development. It has been corrected for this week's edition of STAT Report.

The Union is pleased to be able to offer members of the MSAV, VPA Inc and AHP access to online CPD courses.

Whilst starting with significant number and range of course, this will continue to expand over the years meeting the needs of members with relevant and topical professional subjects.

We think this is an important and ongoing union membership benefit for our members.

Check it out: <http://msav.org.au/slider/new-online-continuing-professional-development/>

To get started all you need to know is your Member Number and use HSU Vic. No4. But to help out we've put together these steps for you to follow:

Step 1 – Click on the link above to get the screen below. Then fill in your details.

New User Registration

Personal details

First Name	<input type="text" value="Union"/>
Last Name	<input type="text" value="Member"/>
Email	<input type="text" value="member@union.org.au"/>
Password	<input type="password" value="••••••"/>
Confirm Password	<input type="password" value="••••••"/>

I am a current HSU member

Step 2 – Click on “I am a current HSU member” and select HSU VIC No. 4, add your Member Number and your Date of Birth

HSU Membership	<input checked="" type="radio"/> I am a current HSU member <input type="radio"/> I am not a HSU Member <small>If you are a member of the HSU Victoria No 1 Branch (Health Workers Union) check this box</small>
HSU Branch	<input type="text" value="HSU VIC No. 4"/>
Member Number	<input type="text" value="Enter your member number"/> <small>If you do not know your member number please call (02) 8203 6066 to obtain it.</small>
Date of Birth	<input type="text" value="DD-MM-YYYY"/>

Step 3 – Click submit to get the screen below

Step 4 – Tick the “Skip payment, I will pay later” option to proceed to find out all of the content that is currently freely available to you.

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3 things you need to know about organisational change in your workplace

Are there rumours in your workplace about organisational change? Have you been told that your health service wants to make some operational changes? Or maybe you've received an email or memo telling you that some aspect of your work will change?

If this sounds familiar, here are 3 things you need to know about organisational change in your workplace.

1. Any changes being proposed to the organisation's operations or how you do your work need to be communicated to you in writing in a document called a "Change Impact Statement". If your management is insisting that a change will be implemented then you have every right to insist on getting a "Change Impact Statement".
2. If you've received a "Change Impact Statement" then contact the Union as soon as possible. The chances are your health service hasn't bothered to inform the Union about the organisational changes they're proposing to introduce.
3. Stay calm. Just because they have given you a "Change Impact Statement" doesn't mean organisational change will simply happen. Your health service still needs to follow well established processes before any change can be implemented.

If you have any concerns about possible organisational change in your workplace contact the Union as soon as possible.

THE NEXT PD SEMINAR IS COMING SOON. SAVE YOUR SPOT! CLICK HERE



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Benefits for Union Members

As a union member, you can take advantage of the collective buying power of more than 1.9 million members to get discounts on a great range of products and services.

Australian Unions Member Benefits makes sure the products and services are from companies you can rely on to deliver high-quality products with reliable customer service.

There is more information about a range of other benefits union members can access at <http://www.memberconnect.com.au/> or you can call Australian Unions Member Benefits on 1300 362 223.

New Australian Unions Member Benefits app

Over the last month Australian Unions launched some new and exclusive Member Benefits - did you see our recent email telling you about this? If not, check your inbox! Search for "Lifestyle Rewards" for your login code.

Our program has expanded to include:

- Discounted movie tickets for Village, Hoyts, Palace and Event cinemas.
- Discounted electronic gift cards - for JB Hi-Fi, Rebel Sport, Dick Smith, iTunes and Mv Fun



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(which includes major theme parks, zoos and aquariums).

- A discounted accommodation booking site.
- A new secure member only website and smart phone app.

All this is free to all members of affiliated unions. If you have not got a login and would like join in [register for Member Benefits now.](#)

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