

A Guide for Calling your State Member of Parliament

Making a phone call to your local State Member of Parliament is a powerful way of informing them of your concerns. In this case it's important to let your Member of Parliament know about the very real concerns we have about pathology services at St John of God as a result of the sale of pathology services to Australian Clinical Labs, a private pathology provider wholly owned by a private equity firm.

When you call your local State Member of Parliament it's very unlikely that you'll speak to the Member directly. You're more likely to speak to one of their staff members. You should let them know that you are a voter in the electorate and that you would like your message passed on to the Member of Parliament.

It's best to keep your phone call to one issue so that it can be properly recorded. You should also ask the person you speak to about having the Member of Parliament respond, in writing, to your call with their position on pathology services at St John of God being sold to a private equity firm.

During the conversation you may be asked questions and you should answer them directly; but if you don't know the answer it's okay to say so – make sure you note down the question so you can get more information. If you find that you disagree with the position being taken make sure to remain calm and collected. It won't be good if you end up having an argument with the Member of Parliament or their staff members.

Remember: Your personal story is always a powerful way of getting your point across.

Important information for your phone call

We know that you're not an expert on every little detail about the sale of pathology services at St John of God and that's why we've put together some important information you can refer to.

1. More than 80% of all patients in the public health system get their clinical diagnosis from a pathology test of one kind or another. Outsourcing pathology services increases turn-around times and leads to job losses with more work and fewer scientists.
2. Australian Clinical Labs is a wholly owned subsidiary of Crescent Capital, a private equity firm.
3. A private equity firm buying up pathology providers raises serious concerns about future quality of health care as private equity firms have no expertise or knowledge of delivering pathology services.
4. Australian Clinical Labs has been buying up pathology services in order to have a large enough scale to be profitable. The company speaks only about delivering profits rather than delivering world class pathology services.
5. 200 jobs are expected to be lost over the next 12 to 24 months with many jobs to go offshore. There are growing concerns about whether patient records will be sent, accessed and maintained offshore; and how Australian Clinical Labs will protect patient privacy and confidentiality.
6. The Union's experience with Clinical Labs to-date, leads the Union to believe that Australian Clinical Labs will pursue corporate strategies similar to other private pathology providers, like Dorevitch, by centralising work and closing pathology labs in hospitals.
7. Pathology, a critical clinical service in public health, has been reduced to a commodity that venture capital companies will buy and sell as a routine part of the business of making bigger profits.

Don't forget that your personal story is very powerful and that it will likely have more impact during your phone call with your State Member of Parliament.

If you want more information contact the Union on (03) 9623 9623 or at enquiry@msav.org.au

Contact Details for Members of Parliament

Here are the contact details for the State Members of Parliament. We've also included the localities for each Member of Parliament so you can be sure you're calling the correct State MP for your area.

Lower House

Member and Electorate	Electorate Phone Number	Other Phone Number
Lisa Neville – Bellarine District	(03) 5248 3462	(03) 9637 9654
Chris Couzens – Geelong District	(03) 5223 2185	
John Eren – Lara District	(03) 5275 3898	(03) 8392 2151
Andrew Katos – South Barwon District	(03) 5243 3344	

Upper House

Member	Electorate Phone Number	Other Phone Number
Jaala Pulford	(03) 5332 2405	(03) 8392 6000
Gayle Tierney	(03) 5224 2088	
Simon Ramsay	(03) 5222 1941	
Joshua Morris	(03) 5332 9443	
James Purcell	(03) 5568 2929	