

**Medical Scientists Oppose Contracting- out of Bendigo Hospital
Pathology
Scientists Call on Board of Bendigo Health to Keep Bendigo
Hospital Pathology local and in public hands**

Scientists, nurses and other pathology workers employed by Bendigo Health will be meeting at **Bendigo Trades Hall on Tuesday 10 May 2011 at 6.30 pm** to discuss their response to the proposal by the Board of Bendigo Health to contract out public pathology services to a metropolitan provider with no ties to the Bendigo community.

Dr Rosemary Kelly Secretary of the Medical Scientists Association of Victoria will be addressing the meeting.

Bendigo Hospital pathology is the only Laboratory in Bendigo that is locally owned and managed to serve the local community, Dr Kelly pointed out.

Bendigo Pathology also provides services to Boort, Inglewood, Wycheproof and Dunolly hospitals and medical centres, and provides out-of-hours services to other hospitals in Bendigo.

“Many pathology tests normally performed in Bendigo would be sent off site to centralised metropolitan laboratories if the contracting out goes ahead” Dr Kelly said.

In our experience the outcome is likely to be

- Increased out-of-pocket expenses for patients are likely for tests ordered by GPs
- Reduced quality & timeliness of Pathology services to public and private patients of Bendigo Hospital and surrounding country hospitals.
- Decision making and control will pass from the Bendigo Hospital to the new provider.
- Loss of specialised skills from the Bendigo region.

Contact Rosemary Kelly on 0418 543 683 – Scientists from Bendigo Hospital laboratory will be available for interviews.