



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coastal Pathology is the largest independently owned medical testing laboratory on the Sunshine Coast and is pleased to announce that it has recently completed a significant upgrade of its diagnostic infrastructure and broadly expanded the range of services it provides to patients and the medical community throughout the region. The company's commitment includes the opening of three new collection centres in Noosaville, Buderim and Nambour with a fourth opening soon in Maroochydore.

Coastal Pathology was established in 2005 by Drs Joe Gatto and Tim McNamara who have over 20 years combined medical experience. Dr Gatto is a Queensland native and a member of the RCPA (Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia) with more than 10 years experience in public and private health. Dr McNamara is an examiner for the RCPA and an assessor for NATA - the government-endorsed provider of accreditation for laboratories. Both remain actively involved in all aspects of the day to day operations of the Coastal Pathology laboratory in King Street, Buderim.

Commenting on the company's recent expansion Dr Joe Gatto said, "Pathology in Australia has undergone widespread rationalisation in recent years so that about 90% of nationwide private pathology is conducted by 4 large corporations who are responsible first and foremost to shareholders. Patients and referring doctors come second. We believe that our medical colleagues are most concerned about delivering the highest quality medical care possible to patients. Incredible as it may seem, Coastal Pathology is the only pathology laboratory on the Sunshine Coast that is owned and operated by fully qualified pathologists."

Dr Gatto went on to say, "Our clients appreciate the convenience of being able to contact us easily and directly, rather than having to deal with unknown people in distant laboratories that are processing thousands of tests on a daily basis. They know we are able to respond quickly to particular test requests and only too pleased to discuss results and answer any questions or concerns about a pathology investigation and this is what clearly sets us apart from other diagnostic services operating on the coast. "

Dr Gatto said, "Both Tim and I are accredited in all of the major pathology disciplines. We started out offering histopathology and added cytology in 2007. Now we have added haematology, microbiology and chemical pathology, which means the range of tests we offer locally covers 90-95% of the ones that most medical professionals typically request."

Dr Gatto added, "We continue to refer a very small number of the more unusual test requests to labs in Brisbane, just as our corporate competitors do. We generally refer these to Pathology Queensland and/or Mater Pathology, which results in the provision of a seamless service to our patients and medical colleagues as we collect all required samples and deliver results in the usual manner. However, the vast majority of testing is conducted locally and apart from our ability to deliver faster turnarounds coupled with local expertise, we're also doing our bit for the environment since we're not transporting samples to Brisbane all day long."

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