

## INTRODUCTION

The need for the Handbook for the Collection, Storage and Transport of Pathology Specimens in Rural and Remote Queensland was first identified in 2001 by the Program Area Managers of the Rural and Remote and Pathology Quality System Program Areas, Quality Improvement and Enhancement Program (QIEP).

The aims of this Handbook are to provide relevant and appropriate information for rural and remote health staff and to encompass areas from the ordering of tests, labelling, collection of specimens, pre-laboratory processing, transport of specimens and accessing of results.

The Handbook has been developed as a companion to the Primary Clinical Care Manual (PCCM) and Chronic Disease Guidelines and incorporates the pathology investigations contained in the PCCM and Chronic Disease Guidelines, as well as the more common tests performed in small rural hospitals and primary health care centres.

Patient safety is of primary concern. Therefore, it is important that every effort be made to ensure that the correct procedure for collection and transport of specimens is carried out at all times to achieve the best possible outcome.

Pathology Queensland provides pathology services to all Queensland Health facilities from thirty-three laboratories throughout Queensland. A list of the laboratories is included in Appendix B.

Any queries regarding the pathology service should be directed to the nearest Pathology Queensland laboratory in the first instance. All Pathology Queensland laboratories provide a basic set of investigations with more sophisticated investigations referred to larger laboratories in Brisbane and Regional centres. Any queries regarding the pathology service including pathology investigations not listed in this manual, or the requirements for collection of specimens should be directed to the nearest Pathology Queensland laboratory in the first instance.