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PM's PATHOLOGY DEAL IGNORES BIGGER PROBLEMS

The Prime Minister's pre-election deal with pathology companies is cold comfort for the millions of patients needing vital radiology services.

The **Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association (ADIA)**, which represents 500 radiology practices around the country, said the pathology deal ignored \$300 million in cuts to Medicare rebates for essential services such as CT scans, ultrasounds, x-rays and MRI.

"While the Prime Minister is celebrating a pre-election deal with pathology companies, radiology patients are being ignored," said **ADIA President Dr Christian Wriedt**.

"This deal means nothing to the millions of Australian patients facing massive cuts to their diagnostic imaging rebates of anything up to \$80 for some services.

"It's pre-election politics that completely evades the real problem facing Australian patients."

Dr Wriedt said the deal also raised questions about how Australian health policy was being formulated.

"Pathology has been running a very loud and critical media campaign against the Government's rebate cuts," he said.

"Now, all of a sudden, a deal has been done and announced during a TV debate.

"It is health policy on the run and that's bad news for patients and bad news for our Medicare system."

Dr Wriedt said ADIA remained committed to working to ensure both sides of politics committed to funding Medicare properly.

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