



## **Specimen Reception– what is it all about?**

Specimen Reception has an important role within Aotea Pathology as this department has the first contact with patient specimens. The timely and accurate processing of patient specimens at this initial stage is crucial and enables the completion of the registration process so that laboratory analysis can begin. Despite providing this central function, many people are unfamiliar with what working in Specimen Reception entails.

As a Laboratory Assistant in Specimen Reception, you can deal with a variety of specimens submitted to the laboratory, verify sample details and enter the data into the laboratory computer system. Assistance can be required with the maintenance and care of equipment along with providing support in general laboratory processes and administration. Excellent communication skills are imperative as an important responsibility involves providing results over the telephone to requesters. Precision, an eye for detail and the ability to work well in a great team environment are important in this exciting and varied role.

Specimen Reception is largely based at the Central Hub in Courtenay Place but we have smaller teams located at Hubs throughout the Wellington area, including Porirua and Lower Hutt. Specimen Reception provides a superb opportunity for those aspiring to take up a career in Health Science. You can even further your education! On the job training and education is provided to prepare you for the Qualified Specimen Services Technician examination - a recognised qualification administered through the New Zealand Institute of Medical Laboratory Science.