

18 October 2005  
Sydney

## **SONIC HEALTHCARE ANNOUNCES A\$200 MILLION EQUITY RAISING**

Sonic Healthcare Limited (“Sonic”) today announced that it will raise A\$200 million with the capacity for oversubscriptions, through the issue of fully paid ordinary shares. The issue will be conducted by way of a bookbuild underwritten by J.P. Morgan Australia Limited.

A Shareholder Purchase Plan (“SPP”) will also be offered to Sonic shareholders following completion of the placement. This will provide the company’s extensive shareholder base with an opportunity to participate in the capital raising. The SPP will be offered to shareholders registered in Australia and New Zealand, in tranches of up to a total \$5,000 per shareholder at the lower of the placement price or a 3% discount to the 5-day VWAP at pricing. The “ex-entitlement” date for participation in the SPP is Monday, 17 October 2005, with the Record Date being Thursday, 20 October 2005. Sonic will be writing to shareholders shortly with further details with respect to the SPP.

Shares issued pursuant to the placement and SPP will rank equally with the company’s existing ordinary shares.

### **Purpose of the Issue:**

On 23 August 2005, Sonic announced that it would acquire a majority interest in Clinical Pathology Laboratories, Inc. (“CPL”), the largest privately owned routine pathology laboratory in the United States.

On 30 September 2005 this transaction was successfully completed, with Sonic acquiring an initial 82% interest in CPL. The total cost of Sonic’s initial investment was ~US\$312 million (~A\$410 million)<sup>1</sup>, funded initially by a short term debt facility.

As previously announced, the acquisition of an interest in CPL is immediately EPS accretive to Sonic. The current placement and SPP will be used to partly retire acquisition debt, and is expected to have minimal EPS impact.

### **Trading Halt:**

Sonic has requested that a trading halt be placed on its shares until completion of the Placement.

Sonic management will host a conference call to address any investor questions at 12.30pm (Sydney time) on Tuesday 18 October 2005. Conference call dial-in details are as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Assuming a full payment of the earnout and an exchange rate of AUD/USD = 0.76

From Australia: 1800 009 696  
From Hong Kong: 800 967 659  
From Singapore: 800 616 2160  
From New Zealand: 0800 449 118  
From United Kingdom: 0800 068 983  
From United States: 1866 369 4113

Q&A instructions:

\*1 [star one] to queue for a question

# [hash] to cancel the question and remove yourself from the queue

\*0 [star zero] to request operator assistance

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