SONIC HEALTHCARE LIMITED

24 September 2015

Company Announcements
Australian Securities Exchange
20 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sirs

Sonic Healthcare Limited 2015 Annual Report
Change in profit from Preliminary Final Report

Please find attached the Sonic Healthcare Limited 2015 Annual Report, including audited statutory financial statements. We note that there has been a change, explained below, to the financial statements from those included in the Appendix 4E: Preliminary Final Report released on 18 August 2015.

As disclosed in previous financial statements (including the 2015 Preliminary Final Report) Sonic had recognised approximately €15 million in debtors, supported by legal advice, in relation to short payments made by certain regional funding bodies ("KVs") in Germany for quarterly billings up to the September 2012 quarter. Subsequent to the release of our 2015 Preliminary Final Report the German Federal Social Court ruled against a competitor laboratory on a similar case. After evaluating this Court decision in consultation with our legal advisors, it was considered appropriate for Sonic to book a full provision against these debtors and to recognise this adjusting event in the 2015 financial statements.

As a result of this non-recurring adjustment (net of the related tax effect at ~30%), net profit attributable to shareholders of Sonic Healthcare Limited for the year ended 30 June 2015 has decreased by $15,562,000 (4.3%), from $363,260,000 to $347,698,000.

This provision has no impact on Sonic's future financial performance, including the earnings guidance for FY2016 released to the market on 18 August 2015, and has no other significant effects on Sonic's financial position. Sonic will continue to explore avenues for recovery of these debtors.

Yours faithfully

Paul Alexander
Company Secretary

Encl.

Sonic Healthcare Limited
ABN **24 004 196 909**
Annual Report – 30 June 2015

Contents

Corporate Directory

Directors	Mr R.P. Campbell	*Chairman*
	Dr C.S. Goldschmidt	*Managing Director*
	Mr C.D. Wilks	*Finance Director*
	Prof M.R. Compton	
	Dr P.J. Dubois	
	Mr C.J. Jackson	
	Mr L.J. Panaccio	
	Ms K.D. Spargo	
	Dr E.J. Wilson	
Company Secretary	Mr P.J. Alexander	

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Fax: 61 2 9878 5066
Website: www.sonichealthcare.com

Share registry

Computershare Investor Services Pty Limited
Level 5, 115 Grenfell Street, Adelaide,
South Australia, 5000, Australia.

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Fax:	1300 534 987	(Within Australia)
Fax:	61 3 9473 2408	(Outside Australia)
Website:	www.computershare.com	
Email:	www.investorcentre.com/contact	

Auditor

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Solicitors

Allens, Minter Ellison

Bankers

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited
Citibank, N.A.
Commonwealth Bank of Australia
HSBC Bank Australia Limited
JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
Lloyds TSB Bank plc
Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd
National Australia Bank Limited
The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.
Westpac Banking Corporation

Stock exchange listings

Sonic Healthcare Limited (SHL.AX) shares are listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Chairman's Letter

Dear Fellow Shareholders,

Sonic Healthcare stands today in a very strong and stable position, with an enduring culture, talented and dedicated senior management around the world, strong market positions in eight countries, and a conservative balance sheet. The Company is extremely well placed for further growth, both organically and through strategic and synergistic acquisitions. Sonic is set to continue to benefit from the expected ongoing growth in the global demand for diagnostic healthcare services. It is possible that revenue for 2016 will reach $5 billion, a significant milestone.

The Company faced some earnings challenges in the 2015 year, particularly in the Australian laboratory market, and incurred some non-recurring costs; however with the benefit of the diversification that comes from operating globally, Sonic is expecting significant earnings growth in 2016, in the order of around 20%. Our confidence in the earnings outlook enabled us to reward shareholders with an increase of 4.5% in total dividends for the 2015 year, and we have also invited shareholders to reinvest their 2015 final dividend of 41 cents per share back into the Company via our Dividend Reinvestment Plan. Sonic now has more than 60,000 registered shareholders, another interesting recent milestone in the Company's development.

As Sonic continues to mature as a Company, and in line with our Core Values, one of which is "Be Enthusiastic about Continuous Improvement", we are investing resources to further develop our environmental, social and governance policies, practices and reporting. In many cases this has simply required formalisation and globalisation of existing policies and practices. You can view these policies and reports on the Company website. The Sonic Board firmly believes that Sonic should not only strive to minimise our impacts on the environment, but also that we contribute positively to the communities of which we are a part. Examples of the many ways Sonic and its people contribute to their communities can be found in our annual Company Conscience report. I am very proud of the positive impacts that Sonic and our staff have on the lives of others.

I have announced my intention to retire from the Sonic Healthcare Board at the conclusion of the 2015 Annual General Meeting. The 22 years I have been on this Board have been incredibly rewarding, being part of the growth of a small laboratory company in Sydney with a market capitalisation of around $20 million into a global leader in medical diagnostics with a market capitalisation of around $8 billion. I thank my fellow Directors and Sonic's senior management, especially Colin Goldschmidt and Chris Wilks, for their support, dedication and inspiration over the last 22 years. I also note that Colin Jackson has advised his intention to retire as a Director at the conclusion of the 2015 Annual General Meeting. Colin has served Sonic exceptionally well over a period of 16 years contributing both at Board level and in his continuing executive role. In particular his interactions with Government on behalf of Sonic and the industry have been invaluable. I thank him for his dedication and his insightful inputs.

The Board has selected Mark Compton as the incoming Chairman, and I strongly believe that Mark has the appropriate experience, industry knowledge and personal characteristics to effectively lead Sonic's Board into the future. I wish Mark, the Sonic Board, shareholders and Sonic's 30,000 people the brightest of futures. I shall remain a very interested shareholder as the Company continues to grow and evolve. I would also like to thank you, Sonic's shareholders, for your support of me to date, and for your continuing support of the Company.

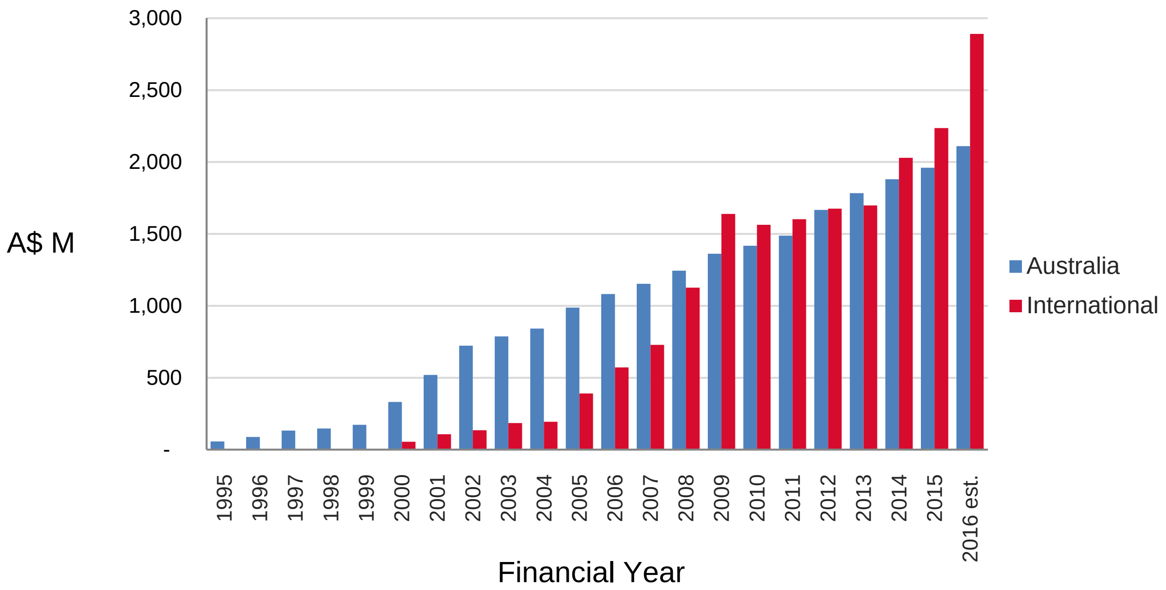
Peter Campbell
Chairman

CEO Report

Sonic Healthcare performed with great credit in fiscal 2015 in the face of challenging conditions in the Australian laboratory market. Revenue growth of 7% was particularly pleasing, incorporating organic growth of approximately 5%, enhanced by accretive acquisitions. Sonic's European businesses produced outstanding results in 2015 and the Imaging and medical centre businesses also performed admirably.

The Company is poised for strong revenue and earnings growth in fiscal 2016, a result of ongoing robust organic growth in all key markets and the positive effect of recent acquisitions and contract wins in Europe. Although slightly negative in fiscal 2015, earnings growth for fiscal 2016 is forecast to be very strong, at around 20%. Significant improvement in earnings is expected from our US laboratory division in the year ahead, following the successful restructure of CBLPath and the return of stronger volume growth to the US laboratory market. In addition, the weakening Australian dollar is providing a "tailwind" for 2016, as our international earnings translate into higher AUD reported earnings.

The chart below demonstrates the growth of Sonic's international businesses, with Australia now representing less than half of Group revenues. Our presence in eight countries serves to diversify operations and to spread the risk of market downturn or regulatory change in any one particular jurisdiction. It also provides numerous attractive growth options and opportunities for the future.



The acquisition of Geneva-based Medisupport in July 2015, together with Sonic's existing high-quality Swiss business in Zurich, propelled Sonic into the clear market leadership position in Switzerland. Medisupport's operations cover both the French and German speaking regions of Switzerland, with laboratories in 10 key cities. They offer an attractive mix of routine and esoteric testing, and in particular possess excellent genetic testing capabilities, including next generation sequencing, which will further enhance the global Sonic Genetics brand. Medisupport is an outstanding business, and the cultural alignment between Sonic and Medisupport could not be stronger.

The smaller KLD acquisition in Belgium, which also occurred in July 2015, strengthened Sonic's market position in the Flanders region and will provide significant synergies with existing laboratory operations. In Germany, four small synergistic acquisitions were also completed in fiscal 2015.

These acquisitions have added substantial scale to Sonic in Europe – Sonic is now proudly the largest laboratory company in each of Germany, the UK and Switzerland.

One of the most important developments in 2015 was the commencement, on 1 April 2015, of Sonic's joint venture with the University College London Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH) and the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust (the Royal Free), to provide laboratory services to the National Health Service (NHS). The joint venture has been awarded ten year contracts to provide laboratory services for UCLH, the Royal Free and North Middlesex University Hospital, and is targeting further NHS outsourcing opportunities. Transition of staff and services was completed seamlessly, with most testing remaining in situ while a new state-of-the-art laboratory facility, in central London, is being refurbished. Centralisation of all services into the new laboratory is expected in late calendar 2016. The joint venture contributed to Sonic UK's 25% revenue growth in fiscal 2015 – revenue growth of approximately 40% is forecast for fiscal 2016, a combination of the full-year effect of the joint venture, together with strong growth of Sonic's private market, non-NHS business.

Sonic remains the market leader in the Australian laboratory market, where the acquisition of San Pathology was added in December 2014. San Pathology is the in-house laboratory of the Sydney Adventist Hospital, the largest private hospital in New South Wales and a prestigious brand to join into our hospital laboratory network.

It is fitting for me to mention that Sonic's Chairman, Peter Campbell, has announced his intention to retire from the Sonic Board at the conclusion of the Company's 2015 AGM. Peter joined the Board in 1993, at the same time that I was appointed as CEO, and then he was elected as Chairman in 2010. Peter has been an important part of the amazing Sonic Healthcare story – at the time of his appointment to the Board, Sonic's share price was ~15 cents, and the annual revenue ~$20 million! I wish to express my sincere thanks to Peter for his support over the past 22 years and I wish him all the very best for the future.

The Board has selected Mark Compton as the incoming Chairman and I look forward to working more closely with Mark into the future. Mark has a wealth of experience in senior healthcare roles, both at executive and Board level and importantly, is someone who truly understands the value of Medical Leadership in a healthcare organisation. I am confident that Sonic will continue to flourish under his Chairmanship.

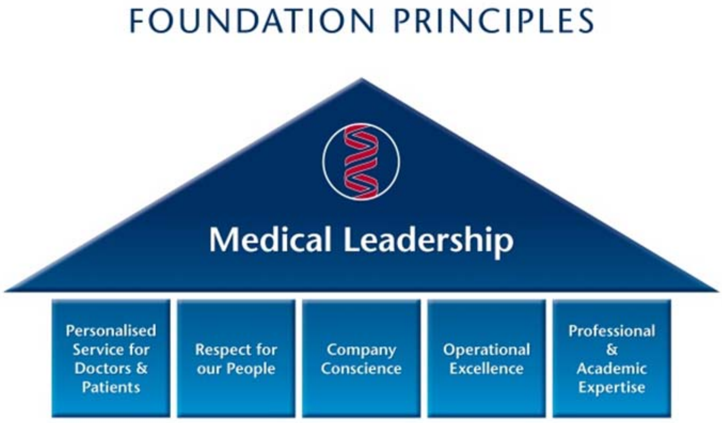
Sonic Healthcare continues to enhance its strength, security and reputation as an international healthcare company and is exceptionally well positioned for further expansion. The medical services we provide to millions of patients each year make a substantial contribution to the well-being of communities in the countries in which we operate. It would be true to say that our work and our services truly make a difference! Our unique Medical Leadership culture underpins the passion in the Company, our quality and our growth – and it also serves to unite our people, driving ongoing value for all Sonic stakeholders. I remain convinced as ever that our culture is our most important asset and our most critical differentiator in global healthcare markets.

The Company benefits greatly from stable and dedicated leaders and I wish to thank, most sincerely, our pathologists, radiologists, physicians, general practitioners and managers – and all of our 30,000 staff – for their ongoing contributions to Sonic and for the exceptionally high standards of service delivery for which Sonic Healthcare is renowned.

Dr Colin Goldschmidt
CEO and Managing Director

Company Conscience

Sonic Healthcare recognises the importance of corporate social responsibility, and considers this to be a basic principle of our Medical Leadership culture. Our commitment to social responsibility is encapsulated in the Sonic Healthcare Foundation Principles, which guide our businesses in their relationships with stakeholders, including customers (doctors and patients), communities and staff.



Sonic's standing in relation to social responsibility has been externally recognised by inclusion in the FTSE4Good Index Series since March 2008. Sonic has been independently assessed according to the FTSE4Good criteria, and has satisfied globally recognised corporate responsibility standards. Companies in the FTSE4Good Index Series have met stringent environmental, social and governance criteria, and are positioned to capitalise on the benefits of responsible business practice.

FTSE4Good

Sonic Healthcare and its people demonstrate social responsibility by seeking to contribute positively to the community in many ways.

Sonic as a leader and educator

Sonic Healthcare provides vital healthcare services and infrastructure in eight countries, across three continents. Our strong market positions provide the opportunity to help shape the healthcare systems in which we operate. We take active roles in industry associations, and we encourage our people to take leadership positions in colleges, industry steering committees, boards and other professional and craft organisations.

Sonic also places great emphasis on supporting and providing teaching in our fields of laboratory medicine, imaging and general practice. We produce educational information and conduct seminars to share knowledge with our referring physicians, and we employ many preeminent, subspecialised pathologists and radiologists, who are encouraged to publish in medical journals and texts to share their unique knowledge and experiences. We provide vocational training positions for pathologists, radiologists and (through our medical centre subsidiary, IPN) general practitioners, helping to ensure the future supply of these important medical practitioners in the community.

Sonic has many established links with university and educational institutes including, for example, University College London, with whom we have partnered in some of their major Technology Strategic Board grants as their commercial partner in medical diagnostics. Sonic's subsidiary Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology works in partnership with The University of Notre Dame's Medical School in Sydney to promote the training of medical students in pathology and basic science. This is the only arrangement of its type in Australia, where a private laboratory acts as the pathology faculty for a medical school (all other medical schools use public hospital laboratories).

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Company Conscience

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Sonic as a leader and educator (continued)

Sonic's pathologists hold professorial positions with the university, and plan and deliver the pathology curriculum, and Notre Dame students visit Sonic's Sydney laboratory for on-site training. Sonic helped establish the James Cook University School of radiography and our radiologists lecture students in both the medical and radiography program. Sonic also provides direct financial sponsorship for a number of academic institutions. Recently Sonic's Medlab Central laboratory in New Zealand achieved Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia accreditation to provide post-graduate training in forensic pathology.

Many of our operations are registered training organisations, offering courses for technical staff and in pathology specimen collection. Our Queensland imaging practice, Queensland X-Ray, is an approved training site for nuclear medicine registrars and for advanced training in positron emission tomography (PET).

A recent example of recognition received for our commitment to training and development was the naming of Clinipath Pathology, Sonic's Western Australian laboratory operation, as one of three finalists for the 2015 Australian Training Awards (ATA). The ATA is hosted by the Australian Government and is the peak national awards for the vocational education and training sector (VET), recognising organisations and individuals for their outstanding contribution to skilling Australia. This acknowledgment follows on from Clinipath Pathology being named the winner of the Western Australian Outstanding Employer of Mature-Age Apprentices and Trainees Excellence Awards in 2014.

As part of our strong commitment to continuous professional development, Sonic has established its own Sonic Pathologist Academic Meeting and its own Sonic Imaging Conference in Australia. These regular conferences attract hundreds of Sonic registrants per meeting. They feature international and national guest speakers and are recognised as premier events of their kind in Australia. Sonic holds similar conferences for Sonic professionals overseas, with a major pathologists' academic conference held in Germany each year. These conferences provide an excellent forum for senior staff to meet in a collegiate environment and to exchange ideas and best practices between Sonic's global operations.

Quality is in our DNA

As a leading healthcare service provider on whom patients, medical practitioners and the community relies for accurate, timely and clinically precise diagnoses, Sonic Healthcare regards quality and safety as amongst our most important attributes. Sonic's corporate motto, "Quality is in our DNA", clearly reflects the importance that is placed on the maintenance of the highest levels of quality in all clinical, operational and workforce processes and systems throughout our global organisation.

All of our medical facilities have external quality assurance certification and are fully accredited by the relevant regulatory bodies in the relevant jurisdictions. It is the maintenance of these external quality assurance standards, along with our hard earned reputation, which provides our doctors and patients with confidence in the integrity of our testing, systems and procedures.

To maintain these external quality and accreditation standards, Sonic has developed robust quality management systems across all of our businesses. The quality assurance and management methodology is supervised by quality management teams within each business. The quality management teams comprise medical, scientific, quality and administrative personnel who work objectively to ensure our medical facilities and supporting operations comply with the standards set down by relevant regulations and reflect good management and clinical practice at all times.

Most of our laboratories are accredited to ISO 15189:2012 (Medical Laboratories – Requirements for Quality and Competence) which is an internationally recognised standard. The standard promotes global harmonisation of clinical practices and protects the health and safety of patients and healthcare providers and improves the overall quality of care.

In Australia, all of our laboratories are accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) to ISO 15189:2012, our radiology facilities are fully accredited against the Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme (DIAS) and our general medical practices are accredited by The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

Our laboratories in the UK have historically been accredited to the Clinical Pathology Accreditation (CPA) requirements. However, they are now accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), which operate to ISO 15189:2012. In addition, the blood transfusion departments are also inspected by the MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency), client facing departments are inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and we comply with all relevant Royal College of Pathologists (RCPath) guidelines.

In Germany and Europe our laboratories meet specific government accreditation requirements. DAkkS is the national accreditation body for the Federal Republic of Germany and it also accredits to ISO 15189:2012.

Company Conscience

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Quality is in our DNA (continued)

Accreditation for our USA laboratories is undertaken by Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) and College of American Pathologists (CAP) to specific technical requirements. Although ISO 15189 is not yet mandatory in the USA, an increasing number of clinical laboratories have recognised the benefit of being accredited to this international standard. All Sonic laboratories in the USA are proceeding towards ISO 15189 accreditation.

Sonic's Medical Leadership culture, and our levels of quality and service, have raised the bar for other participants in our markets.

Sonic as an employer

Sonic provides employment for over 30,000 people in an environment of professionalism, ethical behaviour, equal opportunity and reward based on merit. Sonic subsidiaries regularly win local business awards based on workforce diversity. We are considered an "employer of choice" in our markets due to the respect we offer to individuals and to the medical profession as a whole, and believe that our employee turnover is lower than industry standards as a result, especially at more senior levels of staff. Our Core Values set out a unifying code of conduct for our people.

The philosophy of treating each other with respect and honesty is further encouraged by our Diversity Policy, our Labour Standards and Human Rights Policy and our Code of Ethics. Sonic encourages all staff to report any incidents, misconduct, illegal acts or other behaviour or circumstances which are inconsistent with this commitment or which could adversely impact the reputation of Sonic Healthcare.

Sonic does not tolerate any misconduct or improper behaviour by staff members, nor the use of any punitive action against any staff member that reports such incidents or behaviour. The culture of non-punitive reporting is encouraged to provide a blame-free working environment.

Open communication is one of the best ways to foster a culture of no-blame and this is achieved by providing multiple avenues to report incidents, problems or issues. Consistent training for both supervisors and staff ensures that this culture is fostered throughout the organisation.

We encourage staff to report anything that may have an impact on quality and safety both for patients as well as themselves. The culture of no-blame encourages an increased level of reporting, which means that errors and problems are likely to be captured more quickly. Sonic is committed to taking all reasonable steps to protect people who report such information from any reprisals, as well as providing the opportunity for the person that is the subject of the allegation or investigation to be afforded the principles of natural justice (including receiving details of the allegation, a fair hearing, and a right to respond).

We as an organisation are committed to ethical practice and conducting business with honesty and integrity and therefore commit and adhere to a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption. Sonic seeks this commitment from all staff which is outlined in our Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy.

Company Conscience

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Sonic as an employer (continued)

We engage in a positive manner with unions and other employee representative groups, and have not experienced significant industrial action in our 28 year history. Sonic accepts the right of freedom of association for all of its employees, including their right to join trade unions and to be represented by those unions for the purpose of collective bargaining. Sonic does not discriminate against or deny access to workers' representatives in the workplace and a significant proportion of our global workforce are currently members of unions or other employee representative groups.

Sonic has a long and successful history of growth through acquisition of other businesses. When achieving synergies from such business acquisitions our approach generally is to rely on natural staff turnover to achieve savings over time, rather than wide scale redundancy programs. This is beneficial not only to staff, but to the business as it preserves staff morale, and therefore the goodwill we have acquired.

Sonic is committed to the safety and wellbeing of our staff, as reflected in our Workplace Health and Safety Policy. The nature of our industry, plus our staff training programs and management, mean that workforce injuries are negligible.

Sonic helping others

Sonic Healthcare and its staff support many charities, especially those where we can be directly involved in delivering a positive outcome.

The Catalyst Program is our major Company-wide initiative to provide long term healthcare improvements and beneficial change to some of the world's most disadvantaged communities. Sonic is uniquely positioned to make a significant medical difference by using our expertise to create sustainable, localised self-reliance in laboratory medicine and diagnostic imaging. The HEAL Africa Hospital, located in Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), has been our main focus in recent years and included the setup and equipping of a modern pathology laboratory and imaging facility. The Catalyst Program currently extends to support three hospitals in Ethiopia, being the Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa, the Mille Hospital and a new hospital in Bahir Dar, as well as a hospital in South Sudan. Key activities and updates over the past year include the following:

- We have sponsored the training of local Congolese radiographers and scientists to improve their skills and qualifications and recently two of our sponsored medical doctors graduated to become a specialist pathologist and specialist radiologist at the HEAL Africa Hospital in Goma.
- In June 2015, a team from Sonic travelled to Goma and spent two weeks training laboratory staff, installing new equipment and consulting with the medical staff at the HEAL Africa Hospital.
- Dr Murray Thorn (a senior Sonic radiologist) and Sue Reid (an experienced Sonic sonographer) travelled to Goma in September 2015 for two weeks to assist and continue the skills development of the local technical staff and the newly trained radiologist.
- The installation of a CT scanner at the HEAL Africa Hospital is planned for late 2015. This scanner was donated by Sonic and will make an enormous contribution to the capabilities of the hospital and the management of patients both in the hospital and the broader community. This will be the only CT scanner in Eastern DRC.
- Our support extends to projects such as the HEALing Arts Centre which amongst other things provides vocational skills to women affected by war and violence. We also support a number of schools including the Tuungane and Magunga schools in Goma. We have helped supplement the teachers' wages, supplied stationery, furniture and sports equipment. In addition, we paid for a solar power unit for the roof at the Magunga School which previously had no electricity.
- We have begun working with an Australian maternal health foundation to establish a small laboratory in a new hospital in Bahir Dar, a large rural town in Ethiopia. This hospital's focus will be maternal health and fistula prevention and treatment.
- Our most recent collaboration is with the Mille Hospital in the Afar region of Ethiopia. Using the same successful model that we employed at the HEAL Africa Hospital, Sonic has commenced a long-term involvement to create a modern and well equipped pathology laboratory facility, together with well trained staff and the adequate provision of medical supplies.
- Sonic has formed an association with His House of Hope Hospital in Yei, South Sudan. In June 2015 a team from Sonic visited the hospital to assess the requirements and the operating environment. South Sudan is not only the newest country in the world, but it also has the highest maternal mortality rate where one in seven women die during childbirth. The hospital provides care to more than 6,000 women and children each year and Sonic will be providing equipment, supplies and training to help create a modern diagnostic facility in the hospital.
- Since 2008 Sonic has sent more than a dozen shipping containers to the locations of our African aid projects. Most recently a container was sent in January 2015 to Goma and was filled with laboratory consumables (blood collection items, gloves, specimen containers, reagents), supplies for the hospital, a new biochemistry analyser, computer equipment and a new generator to help power the CT scanner. We also included equipment for the schools and staff donations of clothes and shoes. Other charitable groups took advantage of space in our container to send physiotherapy and surgical equipment.

Company Conscience

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Sonic helping others (continued)

Sonic staff continue to travel to DRC, Ethiopia and South Sudan at regular intervals to assist the hospitals in providing services in some of the world's most disadvantaged areas. Sonic and its staff can be extremely proud of the support that we have provided through this worthwhile program which has helped to establish the HEAL Africa Hospital as one of the most well regarded within the DRC and for the support provided to the other Catalyst Program projects. More information about our Catalyst Program and our involvement with the Heal Africa Hospital can be found on our website at: http://www.sonichealthcare.com/about-us/catalyst-program.aspx

Other examples of the many charitable activities of Sonic and its staff include:

- For the fourth consecutive year Sonic Healthcare Germany has supported the World Doctor Orchestra (WDO) and in particular two concerts in Berlin and Dresden. The orchestra's musicians are medical doctors from 50 countries around the world, including our Sonic pathologist, Dr Hans-Bernd Kucher from Augsburg. All orchestra members perform pro-bono and pay their own travel costs. Sonic's support allows the WDO to cover logistics, concert hall rentals and other costs so that the significant ticket proceeds may be donated to selected charities.
- Clinical Laboratories of Hawaii (CLH) has participated, raised funds and volunteered hours at a variety of charitable events including: Kapiolani Medical Center Radiothon for Kids, Hawaii's Strides Against Breast Cancer, Hilo Heart and Stroke Walk, Relay for Life, Willy K. Annual Charity Golf Tournament, and Annual Visitor Industry Walk; as well as supporting organisations such as American Heart Association and American Cancer Society. In addition, CLH participated in multiple health fairs including Bayahihan Clinic Without Walls Community Health Fair, Pali Momi Health Fair and Early Signs Health Fair to offer free services, free cholesterol screenings, healthy recipes and education.
- Our North East Division in the USA recently provided, free of charge, phlebotomy (i.e. blood collection) and testing services to a research study at Shenandoah University of high school students measuring their propensity to develop diabetes and heart disease.
- Sunrise Medical Laboratories (Sonic's subsidiary in New York) and its staff hosted a food drive and donated over 200 kilograms of food and products. American Esoteric Laboratories (Sonic's Tennessee based subsidiary) coordinated a food drive that gathered over 900 kilograms of food to donate to Second Harvest Food Bank.
- IPN, its doctors and staff host a large number of fundraising events throughout the year, two examples being: The Neutral Bay Medical Centre hosted a "Biggest Morning Tea" fundraising event in June 2015 raising money for Cancer Council Australia. Doctors, staff and the public attended and contributed food items, raising a significant amount of money for this worthwhile cause; and the doctors and staff at Allcare Medical Centre Hammondville and Allcare Medical Centre Wattle Grove hosted a morning tea for Jeans for Genes Day in August 2015 with funds raised going towards the Children's Medical Research Institute's vision of a world without childhood disease.
- SKG Radiology (Sonic's Perth based imaging practice) holds an annual Cancer Council Pink Ribbon Day event. Our staff are actively involved wearing pink clothing, decorating the branches with pink streamers and balloons and displaying the Cancer Council merchandise for sale. The Cancer Council announced over the local radio station that merchandise for this event could be purchased from SKG Radiology branches. This year over $5,000 was raised.
- Our Queensland diagnostic practices, Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology (SNP) and Queensland X-Ray (QXR) made a joint donation to The AEIOU Foundation of $45,000. AEIOU provides life changing education to children aged between two and six who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. In addition, QXR provided funding of $40,000 towards paediatric spine research.
- SNP and QXR are both supporters of the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF) with SNP making a cash donation of $25,000 and QXR providing over $50,000 of free MRI, CT and ultrasound imaging services. GMRF are undertaking a research project into post-traumatic stress disorder and related mental health issues affecting war veterans.
- Sonic's Melbourne Pathology business holds a staff charity ball every year to support causes nominated by the staff. This year the staff selected The National Stroke Foundation and raised over $17,000 through ticket sales, silent auction items and a raffle.
- In May 2015 the staff of Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology (Sonic's NSW based pathology business) raised $13,250 for the Nepal earthquake relief through a raffle of prizes that had been donated by the company.

Company Conscience

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Sonic and the environment

Under Sonic Healthcare's Environmental Policy, our people seek to minimise the negative impacts our businesses may have on their surroundings. Whilst the nature of our industry is such that we are not a significant polluter or energy consumer, our philosophy is that we all have a duty to the community to continuously improve in this area and to our stakeholders to ensure the long-term sustainability of our business.

Our Company is committed to meeting all relevant regulatory and legislative environmental requirements of the locations in which we operate. As part of this commitment, we also actively seek to understand and minimise our environmental footprint and explore opportunities to deliver long-term environmental benefits. We achieve this through:

- identifying opportunities for energy efficiency initiatives, including the use of renewable energy systems or low environmental impact vehicles;
- providing education and training for our staff on environmental practices including reducing water use, clinical waste and resource consumption;
- recycling programs for environmentally sensitive chemicals to reduce our contaminated waste volumes;
- partnering with our suppliers to reduce packaging and transport emissions;
- utilising digital solutions to minimise resource waste across our customer and supply chain;
- responsibly procuring products and services through understanding and evaluating the environmental management practices of our suppliers.

Sonic Healthcare acknowledges and accepts the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's finding that warming of the climate system has been significantly influenced by human activity. We recognise that the impacts of climate change could present physical, natural and human risks for our federation network of service providers, our key suppliers, or the availability of resources for products which are integral to our business. We monitor our exposure to these risks on an ongoing basis, and continue to ensure our service offerings are aligned to meet any emerging needs.

In accordance with the Sonic Values of *"Demonstrating Responsibility and Accountability"* and *"Enthusiasm for Continuous Improvement"*, our environmental policy includes a commitment to transparency of compliance. We have established and maintain procedures which specify our environmental objectives and targets and facilitate their regular review. The Board's Risk Management Committee is responsible for providing oversight on Sonic's identification and response to key environmental issues as well as monitoring our climate change preparedness.

Sonic reports the following data under the Australian National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007:

Greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO2-e)

	2015	2014
Scope 1 (mainly relating to fuel and natural gas)	8,326	8,158
Scope 2 (mainly electricity usage)	59,645	58,023
Energy Consumed (GJ)	381,618	370,179

Whilst energy consumed has increased by 3.1%, this is well below the growth in patient volumes of Sonic's Australian businesses.

Examples of initiatives around the Company to minimise our environmental impact include:

- Sonic encourages its shareholders to access all their communications electronically. This allows Sonic to significantly decrease its shareholder communication print production. Less than 4% of Sonic's shareholders still request a hard copy Annual Report, and over 31% of shareholders receive communications electronically. The result is a reduction in energy and water resources associated with paper and print production;
- The building which houses Sonic's corporate headquarters and our largest laboratory in Australia was designed to achieve a 4-4.5 star Australian Building Greenhouse Rating, with features to save power consumption, harvest rainwater and filter waste water. Similar consideration has gone into all other Sonic laboratory building projects in recent years, including the recently completed laboratory in Perth and the state-of-the-art laboratory facility planned to be built in Brisbane for Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology;
- Use of commercial-scale solar power systems at 14 Giffnock Avenue and Epping Road, Macquarie Park. The combined power capacity is 196kW. The systems generate in excess of 250,000kWh annually of clean energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 175,000 tonnes equivalent of CO_2 annually. Over the 25 year operational life this amounts to 4,400,000 tonnes equivalent of CO_2 abatement;

Company Conscience
(continued)

Sonic and the environment (continued)

- Our new London central laboratory has achieved a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) score of "very good". BREEAM sets the standards for best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation and has become one of the most comprehensive and widely recognised measures of a building's environmental performance. Some specific environmental features of the building include a series of "green roofs" which contribute towards the creation of a nature corridor across central London and the provision of approximately 60 cycle spaces and associated shower facilities on site to encourage staff cycling to work.
- Our UK operations has achieved and maintained certification to the international environmental standard, ISO14001 Environmental Management System. This involves assessing the components of business activity and the associated environmental impacts and identifying long-term objectives, which in turn are broken down into manageable environmental improvement projects. These projects have recently included recycling hardware and toner cartridges, the introduction of bicycle couriers in Central London, environmental credentials as key criteria when selecting new company vehicles, encouraging paperless and dial-in meetings and improving recycling.
- Ongoing campaigns continue around the Sonic network to reduce waste and increase recycling, including providing education and recycling facilities;
- In Germany, Sonic has installed an environmentally-friendly double floor in the clinical chemistry department of the new laboratory building at Labor 28 in Berlin. This innovative design was incorporated to deal with the intense heat generated by certain equipment installed in the laboratory. Previously, this heat was ameliorated by the use of air conditioning, which was a technically complex and cost intensive approach. The double floor design allows for aspiration of the heated air directly at the site of the equipment, providing a more stable and easily regulated room temperature. In addition, the heated air is recycled within the building's heating system, producing significant energy cost savings, which are expected to repay the installation cost of the floor within five years. This design also allows IT cabling, power cables, water and sewage pipes to be installed in close proximity to the equipment, providing further cost and space savings as well as the ability to implement modifications and expansion in the future.
- Five innovative BMW i3 electric cars are being trialed in Germany. The cars do not emit tailpipe pollutants and have a range of 140 kilometers which is adequate for inner city courier work. There is a high initial capital cost however the operating cost is less per month, justifying the trial. It is estimated that each electric car will reduce CO_2 emissions by 300 kilograms per month when compared to an equivalent diesel car.

Medical waste is often identified as a potential environmental hazard resulting from our businesses. In reality this issue is managed in a safe and straight forward manner by contracting with reputable, licensed businesses that specialise in the field to collect and dispose of our waste. Our handling of waste is subject to regular review by external parties as part of our laboratory accreditation processes. In its 28 year history, Sonic is not aware of a single issue of note arising in relation to medical waste.

Sonic does not undertake animal testing, other than veterinary pathology (which tests for the health of the animal) in some markets. When purchasing equipment, Sonic formally assesses water usage, power requirements and consumables packaging, and in accordance with Sonic's Supplier Policy, when choosing significant suppliers a formal assessment is made of their environmental policies and credentials.

Financial History

As at 30 June	**2015**	2014	2013	2012	2011
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Revenue	**4,200,525**	3,913,475	3,484,073	3,345,616	3,096,379
Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA)	**694,649**	733,020	646,819	624,129	570,095
Net profit after tax	**347,698**	384,984	334,998	315,996	294,535
Net cash flow from operations	**512,084**	556,358	459,459	486,758	409,019
Total assets	**6,348,705**	5,797,606	5,518,226	4,928,805	4,712,897
Total liabilities	**3,022,707**	2,688,612	2,600,125	2,318,606	2,196,462
Net assets	**3,325,998**	3,108,994	2,918,101	2,610,199	2,516,435
Net interest bearing debt	**1,975,989**	1,738,790	1,738,848	1,571,081	1,535,626
Statistics					
Diluted earnings per share (cents)	**86.0**	95.5	84.3	80.7	75.5
Dividends paid per ordinary share (cents)	**69.0**	64.0	60.0	59.0	59.0
Dividend payout ratio	**79.7%**	66.6%	70.6%	72.8%	77.8%
Gearing ratio	**37.3%**	35.9%	37.3%	37.6%	37.9%
Interest cover (times)[1]	**10.8**	10.7	8.6	7.0	7.4
Debt cover (times)[1]	**2.7**	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.8
Net tangible asset backing per share ($)	**(2.74)**	(2.43)	(2.51)	(2.40)	(2.30)
Return on invested capital	**7.2%**	9.2%	8.9%	9.8%	8.9%
Return on equity	**10.8%**	12.8%	12.1%	12.3%	11.6%

[1] Calculated using bank debt facility covenant definitions

Directors' Report

Your Directors present their report on the Group consisting of Sonic Healthcare Limited and the entities it controlled at the end of, or during, the year ended 30 June 2015.

Directors
The following persons were Directors of Sonic Healthcare Limited during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report:

Mr R.P. Campbell	*Chairman*
Dr C.S. Goldschmidt	*Managing Director*
Mr C.D. Wilks	*Finance Director*
Dr P.J. Dubois	
Mr C.J. Jackson	
Mr L.J. Panaccio	
Ms K.D. Spargo	
Dr E.J. Wilson	

Prof M.R. Compton was appointed as a director on 7 October 2014 and continues in office at the date of this report.

Principal activities
During the year the principal continuing activities of the Group consisted of the provision of medical diagnostic services and the provision of administrative services and facilities to medical practitioners.

Dividends
Details of dividends in respect of the current year and previous financial year are as follows:

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Interim dividend paid on 25 March 2015 (2014: 25 March 2014)	**116,568**	108,213
Final dividend payable on 22 October 2015 (2014: 23 September 2014)	**164,908**	160,449
Total dividend for the year	**281,476**	268,662

On 17 August 2015, the Board declared a final dividend in respect of the year ended 30 June 2015 of 41 cents per ordinary share, 55% franked (at 30%), payable on 22 October 2015 with a record date of 11 September 2015. An interim dividend of 29 cents per ordinary share, 55% franked (at 30%), was paid on 25 March 2015. These dividends included no conduit foreign income.

A final dividend of 40 cents per ordinary share was paid on 23 September 2014 in respect of the year ended 30 June 2014, out of profits of that year as recommended by the Directors in last year's Directors' Report. The interim dividend in respect of the year ended 30 June 2014 was 27 cents per ordinary share, paid on 25 March 2014. These dividends included no conduit foreign income.

Dividend Reinvestment Plan ("DRP")
The Company's DRP will operate for the 2015 final dividend.

The DRP pricing methodology is the average VWAP over the pricing period (16 September to 13 October 2015 (both inclusive)) as determined in accordance with the DRP rules. A discount of 1.5% will apply to the price of shares issued under the DRP. The DRP application price will be announced to the ASX on 14 October 2015, after the end of the pricing period. Sonic intends to satisfy DRP requirements for this dividend by issuing new shares. Shareholders holding 26.39% of the Company's ordinary shares have elected to participate in the DRP.

The Company has entered into a DRP Shortfall Placement Agreement with CBA Equities Limited ("CBA Equities") that will involve CBA Equities subscribing for shares with a value of up to 100% of the shortfall in DRP participation by Sonic shareholders. The subscription price to be paid by CBA Equities may not equate to the DRP subscription price.

Operating and financial review

Operations

Sonic Healthcare is one of the world's leading global providers of medical diagnostic services. The Group provides highly specialised pathology/clinical laboratory and diagnostic imaging services to physicians, hospitals, community health services, and their patients. Sonic is the world's third largest provider of pathology/clinical laboratory services (referred to in some markets as "laboratory medicine") and was the first company to do so globally. Employing approximately 30,000 people, Sonic enjoys strong positions in the laboratory markets of eight countries, being the largest private operator in Australia, Germany, Switzerland (since July 2015) and the UK, the second largest in Belgium and New Zealand and within the top 5 in the USA. In addition Sonic is the largest operator of medical centres and the largest occupational health provider in Australia, and the second largest participant in the Australian diagnostic imaging market. These strong market positions allow Sonic to leverage existing infrastructure to realise synergies and to grow earnings.

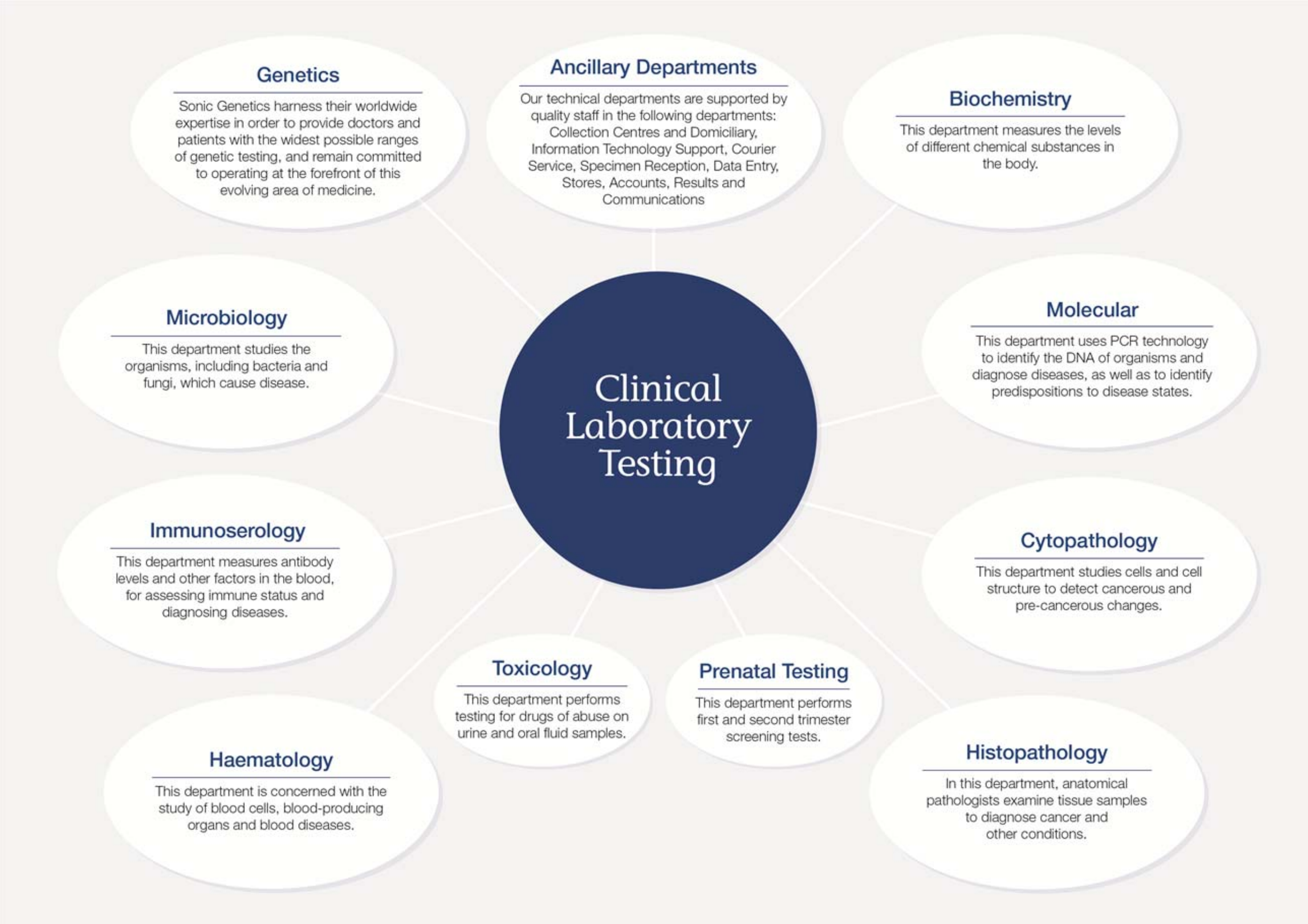
Pathology is the study and diagnosis of disease through examination of organs, tissues, cells and bodily fluids. It is a broadly defined and complex scientific field which seeks to understand the mechanisms of disease and abnormality of cells and tissues, as well as the body's means of responding to and repairing abnormalities. Pathology tests are an essential component in the delivery of modern healthcare services and are estimated to influence approximately 70% of healthcare decisions and 100% of cancer diagnoses. Pathology is a unique medical specialty, in that pathologists and laboratory technicians typically do not see patients directly, but rather serve as consultants to other physicians.

The clinical laboratory process is depicted below:

In most countries in which Sonic operates, laboratories offer specimen collection services, although referring physicians still do some collections themselves. In Australia, approximately 24% of specimens are collected by the referring physician. In Germany, Belgium and Switzerland laboratories generally do not offer specimen collection services.

Operating and financial review (continued)

Operations (continued)
Clinical laboratory tests generally fall into one of ten categories, or departments within a laboratory, as shown below:



Histopathology and cytopathology, which mainly involve the diagnosis of cancers, are often referred to as "anatomical pathology", whereas the other testing areas are usually referred to as clinical laboratory testing. In some international markets such as Australia and New Zealand, it is usual for laboratories to conduct both anatomical pathology and clinical laboratory testing as part of the one service. In other markets, anatomical pathology can be seen as a separate service. Sonic therefore does not offer comprehensive anatomical pathology services in all markets, e.g. Germany, the UK and some regions within the USA.

Sonic's laboratories are today highly sophisticated, providing broad menus of complex tests, in addition to state-of-the-art automation for accurate and rapid turnaround of routine tests. Sonic offers a range of more than 3,000 different tests. Many of Sonic's large laboratories reach or exceed tertiary hospital laboratory standards and are recognised for their esoteric testing expertise, for example, in genetic and molecular testing.

Diagnostic imaging (including radiology) is the medical specialty of using medical imaging technologies to diagnose and treat diseases. The array of imaging technologies include general x-ray, bone densitometry, mammography, ultrasound, computed tomography (CT), nuclear medicine studies and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Diagnostic imaging also includes interventional radiology, the performance of medical procedures under the guidance of imaging technologies.

In addition to clinical laboratories and diagnostic imaging, Sonic conducts a number of smaller complementary businesses (disclosed in the Other category in the Segment information note, along with corporate office costs). The most significant of these are the Independent Practitioner Network ("IPN") medical centre business and the Sonic HealthPlus occupational health business, which together involve more than two hundred primary care clinics across Australia providing facilities and administrative services to over eighteen hundred General Practitioners. 70% of all Australians live within 10 kilometres of an IPN/Sonic HealthPlus clinic.

Operating and financial review (continued)

Financial results

A summary of consolidated revenue and earnings is set out below:

$'000	2015 Constant Currency*	2015 Statutory	2014 Statutory	% Change 2015 Constant Currency v 2014 Statutory	% Change 2015 Statutory v 2014 Statutory
Revenue	**4,121,470**	**4,200,525**	3,913,475	**5.3%**	**7.3%**
Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and intangibles amortisation (**EBITDA**) pre non-recurring items	**723,801**	**730,700**	737,827	**(1.9)%**	**(1.0)%**
Non-recurring items	**(35,993)**	**(36,051)**	(4,807)		
EBITDA	**687,808**	**694,649**	733,020		
Depreciation and lease amortisation	**(134,460)**	**(135,971)**	(124,150)	8.3%	
Earnings before interest, tax and intangibles amortisation (**EBITA**)	**553,348**	**558,678**	608,870	(9.1)%	
Amortisation of intangibles	**(42,711)**	**(43,231)**	(36,439)	17.2%	
Net interest expense	**(49,453)**	**(52,132)**	(57,465)	(13.9)%	
Income tax attributable to operating profit	**(109,789)**	**(109,278)**	(126,106)	(12.9)%	
Net (profit) attributable to minority interests	**(6,296)**	**(6,339)**	(3,876)		
Net profit attributable to shareholders of Sonic Healthcare Limited	**345,099**	**347,698**	384,984	**(10.4)%**	**(9.7)%**
Cash generated from operations (Refer Note (h))		**512,084**	556,358		

Earnings per share

Basic earnings per share	**86.0¢**	**86.6¢**	96.2¢
Diluted earnings per share	**85.3¢**	**86.0¢**	95.5¢

* For an explanation of "Constant Currency" refer to (a) on the following page.

An explanation of the figures reported above is provided in the following pages of this report.

Operating and financial review (continued)

Financial results (continued)

Explanation of results

(a) Constant currency

As a result of Sonic's expanding operations outside of Australia, Sonic is increasingly exposed to currency exchange rate translation risk i.e. the risk that Sonic's offshore earnings and assets fluctuate when reported in AUD.

The average currency exchange rates for the year to 30 June 2015 for the Australian dollar ("A$", "AUD" or "$") versus the currencies of Sonic's offshore earnings varied from those in the comparative period, impacting Sonic's AUD reported earnings ("Statutory" earnings). The underlying earnings in foreign currency are not affected.

As in prior periods, in addition to the statutory disclosures, Sonic's results for the year have also been presented on a "Constant Currency" basis (i.e. using the same exchange rates to convert the current period foreign earnings into AUD as applied in the comparative period, being the average rates for that period). This facilitates comparability of the Group's performance, by providing a view on the underlying business performance without distortion caused by exchange rate volatility, so that an assessment can be made of the growth in earnings in local currencies. Constant Currency reporting also allows comparison to the guidance Sonic provides to the market about its prospective earnings.

In preparing the Constant Currency reporting, the foreign currency elements of each line item in the Income Statement (including net interest expense and tax expense) are restated using the relevant prior period average exchange rate. There is only this one adjustment to each line item so no reconciliation is required.

The average exchange rates used were as follows:

	2015 Statutory	**2014 and Constant Currency**
AUD/USD	0.8362	0.9185
AUD/EUR	0.6963	0.6770
AUD/GBP	0.5304	0.5651
AUD/CHF	0.7880	0.8305
AUD/NZD	1.0758	1.1061

To manage currency translation risk Sonic uses "natural" hedging, under which foreign currency assets (businesses) are matched to the extent possible with same currency debt. Therefore:

- as the AUD value of offshore assets changes with currency movements, so does the AUD value of the debt; and
- as the AUD value of foreign currency EBIT changes with currency movements, so does the AUD value of the foreign currency interest expense.

As Sonic's foreign currency earnings grow, debt is repaid, and interest rates change, the natural hedges have only a partial effect, so AUD reported earnings do fluctuate. Sonic believes it is inappropriate to hedge translation risk (a non-cash risk) with real cash hedging instruments.

Operating and financial review (continued)

Financial results (continued)

Explanation of results (continued)

(b) Revenue

Total revenue growth for the year was 5.3% at Constant Currency exchange rates (i.e. applying the average rates for the 2014 year to the current year results) and 7.3% including exchange rate impacts.

Revenue breakdown AUD M	**2015 Statutory Revenue**	**% of 2015 Statutory Revenue**	**2015 Constant Currency Revenue**	**2014 Revenue**	**Growth 2015 Constant Currency v 2014**
Laboratory – Australia	1,185	28%	1,185	1,131	4.8%
Laboratory – USA	930	22%	847	830	2.0%
Laboratory – Europe	1,272	30%	1,277	1,144	11.6%
Laboratory – NZ	34	1%	33	41	(19.5)%
Imaging – Australia (2014; and NZ)	414	10%	414	415	(0.2)%
Medical centres and occupational health – Australia	362	9%	362	349	3.7%
Revenue excluding interest income	4,197	100%	4,118	3,910	5.3%
Interest income	4		3	3	
Total revenue	4,201		4,121	3,913	5.3%

Revenue for the Laboratory division grew 6% at Constant Currency exchange rates.

Sonic's Australian Laboratory revenue growth of 5% included 0.5% relating to the SAN Pathology acquisition completed in December 2014. Fees and volumes were negatively impacted by Medicare changes from 1 November 2014. Sonic's growth was significantly stronger than market growth (as indicated by Medicare statistics), driven by Sonic's strong brands and market positioning.

Volume growth has returned to the US laboratory market, reflected in Sonic's US growth improving from 1% in the first half to 3% in the second half of FY2015 (versus the corresponding halves in the previous year).

Sonic's European operations experienced strong revenue growth in the UK (25%), Switzerland (5%) and Germany (11%), with German growth augmented by acquisitions (6% organic). Belgian revenue growth has returned after cycling through a one-off statutory fee cut (equating to approximately 7% of total Belgian revenues) that took effect from 1 November 2013.

Imaging revenue growth was impacted by the sale of Sonic's New Zealand practice in March 2014. Sonic's Australian Imaging business grew revenue by 3%.

Revenue growth for Sonic's medical centre business was 6%. Growth of the occupational health business was hampered by the downturn in the resources sector.

Currency exchange rate movements increased reported (Statutory) revenue by A$79M compared to the prior year.

(c) EBITDA and non-recurring items

As disclosed in its past financial statements, Sonic has been carrying approximately €15M in debtors on its balance sheet in relation to short payments made by certain regional funding bodies ("KVs") in Germany for quarterly billings up to the September 2012 quarter. Based on legal advice, Sonic has been and will continue to pursue recovery of these debtors, however after evaluating the implications for Sonic of a recent German Federal Social Court decision against a competitor laboratory, it was considered appropriate for Sonic to book a full provision against these debtors in 2015. The Court decision, and consequently this adjustment, occurred after the release of the Company's Appendix 4E: Preliminary Final Report and therefore the 2015 net profit is $15,562,000 lower than previously announced.

The majority of the decline in EBITDA for the Laboratory division related to this non-recurring debtors provision, and to non-recurring costs of $11.3M for the successful restructure of the CBLPath business in the US and for exiting operations following contract expiries in Auckland and Wellington, New Zealand.

Operating and financial review (continued)

Financial results (continued)

Explanation of results (continued)

(c) EBITDA and non-recurring items (continued)
Additional non-recurring business acquisition costs of $2.5M are included in corporate costs (disclosed in the "Other" segment).

EBITDA pre non-recurring items declined 1% (1.9% at Constant Currency exchange rates) versus the prior year.

Earnings in the Laboratory division were impacted by fee changes in the current (mainly Australia) and prior year (US and Belgium; full year impact in FY2015), and specimen collection infrastructure costs in Australia.

Sonic's Australian Imaging business reported margin expansion of 10 basis points as a result of revenue growth, cost control and efficiency programs.

EBITDA growth in Sonic's medical centre operations was offset by reduced earnings in the Occupational Health business as a result of the resources sector downturn.

Growth in reported expense lines in the Income Statement is distorted by currency exchange rate fluctuations. More meaningful analysis of expenses can be undertaken by relating expenses to revenue. Labour is the major cost of Sonic's businesses, equating to 46% of revenue, equivalent to the prior year. The cost of medical consumables, Sonic's second largest cost category, increased slightly as a percentage of revenue (15%) despite ongoing success with procurement initiatives as a result of changes in mix in Sonic's total business. Underlying prices generally reduced. The third largest expense, operating lease rents, comprises mainly premises rentals, and has increased to over 6% of revenue mainly due to increasing rents and numbers of collection centres in Australia.

(d) Depreciation and lease amortisation
Depreciation and leased asset amortisation has increased 8.3% on the comparative period (at Constant Currency rates) as a result of the growth of the business and investments in cutting edge technology, premises and equipment.

Capital expenditure on property, plant and equipment was higher than usual in 2015 as a result of $42M of payments made in relation to new hub laboratory facilities being developed in Brisbane and Hawaii. In addition, as part of the establishment of the UK joint venture ("JV") with University College London Hospital ("UCLH") and Royal Free, the JV vehicle (which Sonic consolidates) was required to acquire laboratory equipment in use at UCLH and Royal Free.

(e) Intangibles amortisation
Intangibles amortisation mainly relates to internally developed and externally acquired software. Substantial investments into innovative software tools have been made over recent years, leading to a 17% increase in the amortisation charge.

(f) Interest expense
Net interest expense has decreased 13.9% ($8M) on the prior year (at Constant Currency rates) due to lower margins on refinanced debt, lower base interest rates and the expiry of interest rate hedges at higher historical rates.

Sonic's debt is drawn in foreign currencies as "natural" balance sheet hedging of Sonic's offshore operations (see *(a) Constant currency* above).

Interest rate risk management arrangements are in place in accordance with Sonic's Treasury Policy.

(g) Tax expense
The effective tax rate of 24% is slightly lower than in the comparative period due to overprovisions in prior years and to the performance of Sonic's businesses in higher tax rate jurisdictions relative to the performance of its operations in lower tax rate countries.

(h) Cashflow from operations
Gross operating cashflow equated to 95% (after adjusting for the non-cash non-recurring German KV debtor provision) of EBITDA, slightly lower than usual (2014: 98%), mainly due to the build-up of working capital (debtors and accrued revenue) for the new (from 1 April 2015) UK JV.

Operating and financial review (continued)

Financial position

Net assets at 30 June 2015 of A$3,326M increased by A$217M, or 7%, on the prior year. 53% (A$115M) of this increase related to movements in currency exchange rates, with both assets (including intangibles) and liabilities of Sonic's US, UK and Swiss businesses being inflated by a weakened Australian dollar. Net assets also increased due to retained earnings increasing A$71M (operating profit less dividends paid) and from the formation of the UK joint venture, which caused an increase in minority interests. The Company also received net cash of A$13M on exercise of options during the year.

Net (of cash) interest bearing debt increased $A237M (14%) from the prior year level to A$1,976M. A$198M of this increase related to currency exchange rate impacts, with the balance relating to business acquisitions completed in the year.

Sonic's net interest bearing debt at 30 June 2015 comprised:

	Facility Limit M	**Drawn M**	**AUD $M Available**
Notes held by USA investors – USD	US$500	US$500	-
Notes held by USA investors – Euro	€110	€110	-
Bank debt facilities			
- USD limits	US$425	US$361	83
- Euro limits	€630	€558	105
- GBP limits	£40	£40	-
- AUD (Multicurrency) limits	A$250	A$57[+]	193
Minor debt/leasing facilities	n/a	A$(3)*	-
Cash	n/a	A$(249)*	249
Available funds at 30 June 2015			630

[+] Includes debt drawn in GBP
* Various currencies

Sonic's credit metrics were as follows:

	30.6.15	**31.12.14**	**30.6.14**
Gearing ratio	37.3%	38.0%	35.9%
Interest cover (times)	10.8	11.9	10.7
Debt cover (times)	2.7	2.5	2.4

Definitions:

- Gearing ratio = Net debt/[Net debt + equity] (USPP note covenant limit <55%)
- Interest cover = EBITA/Net interest expense (bank covenant limit >3.25)
- Debt cover = Net debt/EBITDA (bank covenant limit <3.5)
- Calculations as per Sonic's senior debt facility definitions

Operating and financial review (continued)

Financial position (continued)

Sonic's senior debt facility limits at 30 June 2015 expire as follows (**note that the figures shown are the facility limits, not drawn debt**):

	AUD M	USD M	Euro M	GBP M
2016	-	-	-	40
2017	200	95	130	-
2018	50	65	230	-
2019	-	230	145	-
2020	-	285	125	-
2021	-	250	-	-
2024	-	-	110	-
	250	925	740	40

Sonic's excellent relationships with its banks, its investment grade credit metrics, and its strong and reliable cash flows significantly reduce refinancing risk.

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Group during the course of the financial year other than those noted in the financial result and financial position sections above.

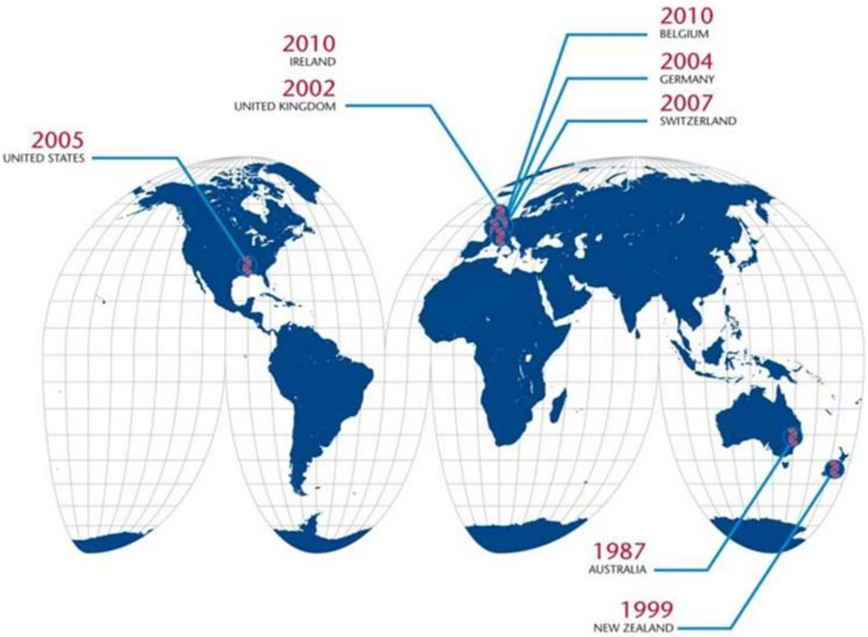
Operating and financial review (continued)

Business model and strategies
For over two decades, Sonic Healthcare has pursued and promoted a management and operational philosophy of Medical Leadership. The impact of this approach has been to develop a company whose services are optimally aligned with the needs of physicians and their patients. Medical Leadership encompasses a management commitment to the maintenance of professionalism and "good medicine" at all times. It fosters an understanding of the doctor-patient relationship and it puts quality first.

Sonic's operations are structured as a "federation", implying that individual subsidiaries or geographical divisions work in a synergistic network to achieve best practice outcomes in terms of service and business excellence. The structure reinforces the identity and management autonomy of each local operation. Each operation has its own CEO or President and management team. When Sonic acquires businesses, they most often maintain their management autonomy, brand, and consequently their local "flavour". This is the structure which is most resonant with local medical communities and which best preserves acquired goodwill. However, Sonic's operations work in a collaborative way within the structure, via central executives and widespread inter-company communication, to achieve synergies. Detailed benchmarking leading to best practice, group purchasing, IT, E-health, quality system sharing and centralisation of testing are all examples of continuous synergy activity within the Group.

Sonic's Medical Leadership philosophy and federation structure have resulted in significant "brand" differentiation in the market place. The Company's operations are viewed as specialist medical practices, rather than as "businesses". This market differentiation has not only fostered strong organic revenue growth (including hospital pathology outsourcing contracts) over the years but has often made Sonic the preferred acquirer when laboratory or imaging practice founders and owners wish to realise the value of their practices without seeing their focus on the medical nature of the business lost to a more "corporatised" acquirer. Sonic's culture and structure have also served to attract and retain top pathologists, radiologists, scientific staff and managers, with staff turnover at this important senior level consistently at very low levels.

Sonic's strategy is to utilise its unique culture, values and structure to achieve a leading position in targeted geographic laboratory markets, providing sufficient size and infrastructure to facilitate synergies and economies of scale to drive margin improvements, earnings growth and increasing returns on capital invested. Sonic has a successful track record of consolidating fragmented markets in Australia, using its market differentiation to drive both organic revenue growth and to attract like-minded laboratories for acquisition. Having undertaken a strategic international laboratory expansion program, Sonic is now successfully implementing the same strategies in its offshore pathology markets. Sonic is also well placed to benefit from the increasing trend for governments and others to outsource their diagnostic testing to the private sector in order to address growing healthcare costs.



Operating and financial review (continued)

Prospects for future years
Sonic operates in attractive and growing global healthcare markets, carefully chosen based on a range of factors including political, legal and financial stability, reliable and stable healthcare funding systems, fragmentation of the market, and cultural understanding. Within these markets there is increasing demand for diagnostic services arising from growing and ageing populations, new tests and preventative medicine. Against this favourable backdrop Sonic expects to continue for the foreseeable future to grow revenue, earnings and returns on investment organically, including through outsourcing contracts, and further enhanced by synergistic business acquisitions. Laboratory operations offer many levers which can be adjusted to optimise individual processes and Sonic's managers are constantly seeking efficiency gains within their businesses, aided by the early adoption of new technologies and the sharing of experiences with colleagues from around the globe.

Whilst the present focus for acquisitions is on Sonic's existing markets, further prudent and strategic international laboratory expansion is likely in the medium to long term. Sonic has no current intention to expand its diagnostic imaging or other businesses outside Australia.

Sonic intends to maintain a solid investment grade profile with conservative leverage, to preserve Sonic's culture and Core Values, and to ensure the attraction and retention of the best people to drive the business forward, including retaining key staff from acquisitions.

With regard to more short term prospects, on 18 August 2015 Sonic provided guidance in relation to forecast results for the 2016 financial year as follows:

- Sonic expects to generate EBITDA of A$815-840M for 2016, on a Constant Currency basis (applying 2015 average currency exchange rates to 2016 foreign currency earnings). If recent currency rates continue to prevail, statutory EBITDA is likely to be significantly higher than the Constant Currency levels.
- Net interest expense is expected to increase by 5-10% from the 2015 level of A$52M on a Constant Currency basis as a result of the acquisitions completed in July 2015. Underlying floating interest rates are assumed to remain constant at August 2015 levels.
- The effective tax rate is expected to be approximately 25%.
- This guidance excludes the impact of any future business acquisitions.

Given Sonic's size and global market presence, opportunities present themselves from time to time that are not necessarily in accordance with Sonic's core strategies. These opportunities are assessed by management and the Board to determine whether their pursuit is in the best interests of shareholders. Further information on likely strategic developments has not been included in this report because the Directors believe it would be likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the interests of the Group.

Risks
The major risks to consider in assessing Sonic's future prospects are:

- Sonic's reported revenue and earnings will fluctuate with changes in the currency exchange rates between the Australian dollar (our reporting currency) and the currencies of our offshore operations. As previously noted, Sonic uses foreign currency borrowings as a partial (natural) hedge.
- In most of Sonic's markets the majority of revenue is priced based on fee schedules set by government or quasi government bodies and, especially in the USA, insurance companies. As a result of the strong underlying volume growth drivers, healthcare funders will sometimes use fee cuts or other adjustments to curb growth in their outlays. Sonic mitigates this risk through its geographic and line of business diversification, by seeking diversified sources of revenue for its services within markets, and by being one of the largest, more efficient operators and therefore less impacted by adverse market changes than smaller, less efficient players. In general, fee pressures drive further market consolidation, feeding into Sonic's core strategy of growth both organically and by acquisition, with attendant synergy capture and economies of scale.
- Healthcare businesses are subject to significant levels of regulation. Changes in regulation can have the impact of increasing costs or reducing revenue (through volume reductions). Sonic attempts to mitigate this risk by using its market leadership positions to help shape the healthcare systems in which it operates. Sonic takes active roles in industry associations, and encourages its people to take leadership positions in colleges and other professional and craft organisations. In addition, Sonic's size and efficiency allows it to benefit from market consolidation driven by the impacts of regulatory changes on smaller players.

Operating and financial review (continued)

Risks (continued)

- Loss of a licence or accreditation required to operate one or more of Sonic's businesses could impact revenue both directly and through damage to Sonic's reputation. The likelihood of this risk having a material impact is considered low given the focus on quality within Sonic.
- Sonic's strategies include the acquisition of businesses and entering into long term contracts to provide diagnostic testing. There is a risk that an acquisition or contract may not achieve its expected financial performance, or give rise to an unexpected liability. Sonic seeks to mitigate these risks through thorough due diligence, and through warranties and indemnities in acquisition and contract documentation.
- There is always the risk of heightened competition in Sonic's markets, whether from more aggressive behaviour of an existing competitor, or from a new competitor. This could include a competitor introducing a new development in testing or introducing new tests that result in less demand for Sonic's services. A change in competition could impact revenue and/or costs. Sonic's leadership is alert to potential changes in the market place and reacts swiftly when threats are perceived.
- Relationships with referring practitioners (including general practitioners, surgeons and other specialists), hospital groups and other parties with whom Sonic contracts to provide services are important to Sonic's businesses. If, for any reason, Sonic failed to maintain strong relationships with these parties, there would be a risk that it could lose business to competitors.
- Sonic's businesses rely on information technology systems. A disruption to a core IT platform could have significant operational impacts. Sonic has implemented strategies which management believes significantly reduce this risk.
- Sonic uses prudent levels of debt to reduce its cost of capital and to increase earnings per share. It is therefore subject to the risk of rising interest rates (either on floating rate debt or when existing facilities expire), the future availability of funding, and potential breach of a term or condition of its debt facilities. Sonic has a sophisticated Treasury Policy in place to manage these risks, developed and overseen by Sonic's Treasury Management Committee, which includes a renowned expert external consultant.
- With operations in eight jurisdictions, Sonic is potentially exposed to changes in taxation legislation or interpretation which could increase its effective tax rate.

Sonic's Board does not believe the Company has any material exposure to environmental or social sustainability risks.

Sonic's geographic, business line and branding diversification, plus our federation structure, broad menu of tests offered and low customer concentrations mean that few, if any, of the usual operating risks faced by a healthcare business would have a material impact on Sonic as a whole.

Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year
Since the end of the financial year, the Directors are not aware of any matter or circumstance not otherwise dealt with in these financial statements that has significantly or may significantly affect the operations of the Group, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Group in subsequent financial years, other than:

- the acquisitions of the Swiss medical laboratory group, Medisupport S.A. and the Belgian based KLD laboratory as described in Sonic's announcements to the market dated 15 June and 6 July 2015; and
- as announced to the market on 14 August 2015, the new provincial government of Alberta decided not to proceed with the laboratory services contract for which Sonic had been chosen as the preferred proponent.

Information on Directors

(a) Directors' profiles

Peter Campbell
Chairman
F.C.A., C.T.A., F.A.I.C.D.
Non-executive, independent Director, appointed January 1993 (Chairman from 27 October 2010)

Mr Campbell is a Chartered Accountant with his own practice based in Sydney. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, the Taxation Institute of Australia and the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is a Registered Company Auditor. Mr Campbell is a member of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee. Mr Campbell was a non-executive director of Silex Systems Limited (from 1996 until September 2013, including Chairman from October 2010 until February 2012) and he was also a non-executive director of QRxPharma Limited (from April 2007 until July 2014).

Dr Colin Goldschmidt
CEO and Managing Director
M.B.B.Ch., F.R.C.P.A., F.A.I.C.D.
Executive Director, appointed January 1993

Dr Goldschmidt is the CEO and Managing Director of Sonic Healthcare. He is a qualified medical doctor who then undertook specialist pathology training in Sydney, before gaining his qualification as a specialist pathologist in 1986. Dr Goldschmidt became CEO of Sonic in 1993 and has led Sonic's global expansion by committing the Company to a model of Medical Leadership, which incorporates unique operational and cultural attributes. He is a member of Sonic's Risk Management Committee and holds memberships with numerous industry, medical and laboratory associations. He was a non-executive director of Silex Systems Limited (from 1992 until May 2014), a listed company divested by Sonic in 1996.

Christopher Wilks
Finance Director
B.Comm. (Univ Melb), F.A.I.C.D.
Executive Director, appointed December 1989

Mr Wilks has a background in chartered accounting and investment banking. He was previously a partner in a private investment bank and has held directorships for a number of public companies. He is currently a director of Silex Systems Limited (since 1988).

Professor Mark Compton, AM
B.Sc., M.B.A., F.A.I.C.D., F.A.I.M., A.F.C.H.S.M.
Non-executive, independent Director, appointed October 2014

Prof Compton has extensive senior executive experience in healthcare services. He is currently Adjunct Professor in Management (Healthcare Leadership) at Macquarie Graduate School of Management, non-executive director of Macquarie University Hospital, Chairman and Chancellor of St John Ambulance Australia (having served as a volunteer for 42 years) and Chief Executive Officer of St Luke's Care. His previous experience includes Chief Executive Officer of Immune Systems Therapeutics Limited, National Chief Executive Officer of The Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia, and Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the formerly ASX listed companies SciGen Limited and Alpha Healthcare Limited. He has also held a number of non-executive director roles including for formerly ASX-listed Independent Practitioner Network Limited (2004 to 2008), and as Chairman of The Woolcock Institute of Medical Research. In recognition of his work in the healthcare sector and his service to the community, he was awarded the Centenary Medal of the Commonwealth of Australia, appointed a Knight in the Order of St John in 2004 and was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in January 2010. He is a member of the Audit Committee.

Information on Directors (continued)

(a) Directors' profiles (continued)

Dr Philip Dubois
M.B., B.S., F.R.C.R., F.R.A.N.Z.C.R., F.A.I.C.D.
Executive Director, appointed July 2001

Dr Dubois is CEO of Sonic's Imaging Division. He is Chairman of the Sonic Imaging Executive Committee and is Chairman and CEO of Queensland X-Ray (acquired by Sonic in 2001). A neuroradiologist and nuclear imaging specialist, he is currently an Associate Professor of Radiology at the University of Queensland Medical School. He has served on numerous government and craft group bodies, including the councils of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists and the Australian Medical Association, and as Vice-President of the Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association. He is a non-executive director of Magnetica Limited (since December 2004).

Colin Jackson, OAM
F.C.P.A., F.C.A., F.A.I.C.D.
Executive Director, appointed December 1999

Mr Jackson has a background in professional accounting practice and laboratory management. He plays an active role at Sonic corporate level and, as Board Member of Pathology Australia (immediate past President), represents Sonic at a national industry level. Mr Jackson was the Chief Executive Officer of Diagnostic Services Pty Limited (Sonic's Tasmanian practice, acquired in 1999) for 11 years to 2006. He is a Fellow of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants, the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia. Mr Jackson is also President of the University of Tasmania Foundation.

Lou Panaccio
B.Ec., C.A., M.A.I.C.D.
Non-executive, independent Director, appointed June 2005

Mr Panaccio is a Chartered Accountant with strong management experience in business and healthcare services. Mr Panaccio is currently on the boards of ASX listed companies Genera Biosystems Limited (Chairman from July 2011, director from November 2010) and Avita Medical Limited (Chairman from July 2014). He is also Executive Chairman of Health Networks Australia, non-executive Deputy Chairman of the Inner East Community Health Service in Victoria and non-executive Deputy Chairman of Yarra Community Housing Limited. Mr Panaccio was the Chief Executive Officer and executive director of Melbourne Pathology (acquired by Sonic in 1999) for ten years to 2001. Mr Panaccio is Chair of the Audit Committee, a member of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee, and a member of the Risk Management Committee.

Kate Spargo
L.L.B. (Hons), B.A., F.A.I.C.D.
Non-executive, independent Director, appointed July 2010

Ms Spargo has gained broad business experience as both a legal advisor, having worked in private practice and government, and as a director. Ms Spargo has been a director of both listed and unlisted companies over the last seventeen years and her current directorships include the ASX listed companies Fletcher Building Limited (from March 2012), Chairman of UGL Limited (director from October 2010, appointed Chairman October 2014) and Adairs Limited (director from May 2015). She is also a director of SMEC Limited, an engineering company with operations in around 40 countries, CoInvest Limited and Suncorp Portfolio Services Limited. Ms Spargo is Chair of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee and is a member of the Audit Committee.

Information on Directors (continued)

(a) Directors' profiles (continued)

Dr Jane Wilson
M.B.B.S., M.B.A., F.A.I.C.D.
Non-executive, independent Director, appointed July 2010

Dr Wilson is an independent non-executive director with a background in finance, banking and medicine (as a qualified General Practitioner) and has extensive experience in corporate finance, commercialisation of technologies and governance. Dr Wilson is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and was the Queensland President and National Board Director of AICD from 2002 to 2004. She is Finance Director of The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, Deputy Chancellor of the University of Queensland, a member of the University of Queensland Faculty of Health Sciences Board and a director of the General Sir John Monash Foundation. Dr Wilson was appointed to the Prime Minister's Business Advisory Council (12 Member council) in December 2013, and is a member of the Institute for Molecular Bioscience Advisory Board. In 2015, Dr Wilson was appointed as a Guardian of the Future Fund Board. Dr Wilson's previous directorships include inaugural Chairman of Horticulture Australia, Chairman of IMBcom Ltd, ASX listed Universal Biosensors Ltd (from December 2006 until August 2013), Energex Ltd., Sun Retail Ltd. and WorkCover Qld. She served on the Premier's Smart State Council in Queensland and was a member of the Biotechnology Task Force. She was named in the inaugural 2012 AFR/Westpac Top 100 Women Awards in the Board/Management category. Dr Wilson is Chair of the Risk Management Committee and is a member of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee.

(b) Company Secretary

Paul Alexander
B.Ec., C.A., F.Fin.

Mr Alexander has been the Deputy Chief Financial Officer of Sonic Healthcare Limited since 1997 and Sonic's Company Secretary since 2001. Prior to joining Sonic, Mr Alexander gained 10 years experience in professional accounting practice, mainly with Price Waterhouse, and was also Financial Controller and Company Secretary of a subsidiary of a UK headquartered multinational company for two years.

Information on Directors (continued)

(c) Directors' interests in shares, options and performance rights as at 24 September 2015

Director's name	Class of shares	Number of shares	Interest	Number of options	Number of performance rights
R.P. Campbell	Ordinary	10,271	Beneficially	-	-
Dr C.S. Goldschmidt	Ordinary	539,685	Personally	2,465,418*	244,792*
	Ordinary	30,243	Beneficially	-	-
C.D. Wilks	Ordinary	575,967	Personally	1,181,485*	115,135*
	Ordinary	88,122	Beneficially	-	-
M.R. Compton	Ordinary	481	Personally	-	-
		1,532	Beneficially		
Dr P.J. Dubois	Ordinary	8,000	Beneficially	-	-
C.J. Jackson	Ordinary	456,371	Personally	-	-
L.J. Panaccio	Ordinary	-	-	-	-
K.D. Spargo	Ordinary	3,000	Personally	-	-
	Ordinary	6,000	Beneficially	-	-
Dr E.J. Wilson	Ordinary	2,000	Beneficially	-	-

* Vesting of the options and performance rights is subject to challenging performance conditions designed to align the interests of the executives with those of shareholders. None of the performance rights have vested to date. 389,605 of Dr C.S. Goldschmidt's and 194,801 of C.D. Wilks' options have vested to date.

Meetings of Directors

The numbers of meetings of the Company's Board of Directors and of each Board Committee held during the year ended 30 June 2015, and the numbers of meetings attended by each Director were:

	Full meetings of Directors		Meetings of Committees: Audit		Meetings of Committees: Remuneration and Nomination		Meetings of Committees: Risk Management	
	Number of meetings attended	Number of meetings held	Number of meetings attended	Number of meetings held	Number of meetings attended	Number of meetings held	Number of meetings attended	Number of meetings held
R.P. Campbell	10	10	2	2	3	4	-	-
Dr C.S. Goldschmidt	10	10	-	-	-	-	2	2
C.D. Wilks	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
M.R. Compton	5	7	1	2	-	-	-	-
Dr P.J. Dubois	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
C.J. Jackson	9	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
L.J. Panaccio	10	10	4	4	4	4	2	2
K.D. Spargo	9	10	4	4	4	4	-	-
Dr E.J. Wilson	9	10	-	-	4	4	2	2

Insurance of officers
The Company has entered into agreements to indemnify all Directors of the Company that are named above and current and former Directors of the Company and its controlled entities against all liabilities to persons (other than the Company or related entity) which arise out of the performance of their normal duties as Director or executive officer unless the liability relates to conduct involving lack of good faith. The Company has agreed to indemnify the Directors and executive officers against all costs and expenses incurred in defending an action that falls within the scope of the indemnity and any resulting payments.

The Directors' and officers' liability insurance provides cover against costs and expenses, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, involved in defending legal actions and any resulting payments arising from a liability to persons (other than the Company or related entity) incurred in their position as a Director or executive officer unless the conduct involves a wilful breach of duty or an improper use of inside information or position to gain advantage. The insurance policy does not allow disclosure of the nature of the liabilities insured against or the premium paid under the policy.

Environmental regulation
The Group is subject to environmental regulation in respect of the transport and disposal of medical waste. The Group contracts with reputable, licensed businesses to dispose of waste. The Directors believe that the Group has complied with all relevant environmental regulations and there have been no investigations or claims during the financial year.

Non-audit services
The Company may decide to employ the auditor on assignments additional to their statutory audit duties where the auditor's expertise and experience with the Group are important.

Details of the amounts paid or payable to the auditor of the Group (PricewaterhouseCoopers) for non-audit services provided during the year are set out below.

The Board of Directors has considered the position and, in accordance with the advice received from the Audit Committee, is satisfied that the provision of the non-audit services is compatible with the general standard of independence for auditors imposed by the *Corporations Act 2001.* The Directors are satisfied that the provision of non-audit services by the auditor did not compromise the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*. In the opinion of the Directors none of the services provided undermine the general principles relating to auditor independence as set out in APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, including reviewing or auditing the auditor's own work, acting in a management or a decision-making capacity for the Company, acting as advocate for the Company or jointly sharing economic risk and rewards.

A copy of the auditors' independence declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out on page 43.

During the year the following fees were paid or payable for non-audit services provided by the auditors of the Group.

	Consolidated Group	
	2015	2014
	$	$
PricewaterhouseCoopers – Australian firm and related practices (including overseas PricewaterhouseCoopers firms)		
Taxation and accounting services	**117,975**	98,965

Remuneration of auditors is detailed in Note 33.

Share options
Information on share options is detailed in Note 34 - Share based payments.

Rounding of amounts
The Company is of a kind referred to in Class Order 98/0100 issued by the Australian Securities & Investments Commission, relating to the "rounding off" of amounts in the Directors' Report. Amounts in the Directors' Report have been rounded off in accordance with that Class Order to the nearest thousand dollars, or in certain cases, to the nearest dollar.

Remuneration Report
The Directors of Sonic Healthcare Limited present the Remuneration Report for the year ended 30 June 2015 in accordance with section 300A of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Sonic Healthcare's remuneration packages are structured and set at levels that are intended to attract, motivate and retain Directors and executives capable of leading and managing the Group's operations, and to align remuneration with the creation of value for shareholders.

Remuneration of Non-executive Directors is determined by the Board within the maximum amount approved by the shareholders. At the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") on 18 November 2010 shareholders approved a maximum amount of $1,000,000 for remuneration of Non-executive Directors, of which $885,084 was paid in 2015. Since 1 July 2013 the Chairman's annual remuneration is $290,000 inclusive of all Board Committee work and the base Non-executive Director fee is $140,000. Board Committee fees are as follows:

Fees per annum	Chair	Members
Audit	$18,000	$10,000
Risk Management	$10,000	$5,000
Remuneration and Nomination	$10,000	$5,000

Options or performance rights are not issued and bonuses are not payable to Non-executive Directors.

The Remuneration and Nomination Committee, consisting of four Non-executive independent Directors, makes specific recommendations to the Board on remuneration packages and other terms of employment for the Managing Director and Finance Director and advises the Board in relation to equity-based incentive schemes for other employees. The Remuneration and Nomination Committee and Board also seek and consider advice from independent remuneration consultants where appropriate. Remuneration consultants are engaged by and report directly to the Remuneration and Nomination Committee, after consideration of any potential conflicts.

Sonic Healthcare's remuneration policy links the remuneration of the Managing Director and the Finance Director to Sonic's performance through the award of conditional entitlements. These conditional entitlements relate to the performance of the Group and thus align reward with the creation of value for shareholders.

Remuneration and other terms of employment for other executives are reviewed annually by the Managing Director having regard to performance against goals set at the start of the year, performance of the entity or function of the Group for which they have responsibility, and relevant comparative information. As well as a base salary, remuneration packages may include superannuation, fringe benefits, performance related bonuses and share and option grants. These bonuses and equity grants reward the creation of value for shareholders.

Other than contributions to superannuation funds during employment periods and notice periods under applicable employment laws and in certain executive service contracts, the Group does not contract to provide retirement benefits to Directors or executives.

(a) Key management personnel

(i) Directors
The following persons were Directors of Sonic Healthcare Limited during the financial year and were therefore key management personnel of the Group:

Non-executive Directors
R.P. Campbell (Chairman)
M.R. Compton (from 7 October 2014)
L.J. Panaccio
K.D. Spargo
Dr E.J. Wilson

Remuneration Report (continued)

(a) Key management personnel (continued)

(i) Directors (continued)

Executive Directors
Dr C.S. Goldschmidt *Managing Director*
C.D. Wilks *Finance Director*
Dr P.J. Dubois
C.J. Jackson

Other than M.R. Compton, all of the above persons were also key management personnel during the year ended 30 June 2014.

(ii) Other key management personnel
The Sonic Group operates via a decentralised federated structure whereby the Chief Executive Officers of individual operating entities have delegated authority for their local operations (each of which is not material to the Group as a whole). The Group's Australian laboratory and imaging activities are co-ordinated and controlled through the Pathology Sonic Executive Committee and the Imaging Sonic Executive Committee ("PSEC" and "ISEC" respectively). Dr C.S. Goldschmidt is Chairman of PSEC and a member of ISEC, Dr P.J. Dubois is Chairman of ISEC and CEO of the Imaging division, and C.D. Wilks is a member of both PSEC and ISEC. A German Sonic Executive Committee ("GSEC") co-ordinates the Group's German operations. Dr C.S. Goldschmidt is Chairman of GSEC and C.D. Wilks is also a member. Dr C.S. Goldschmidt and C.D. Wilks also oversee Sonic's businesses in the USA and the medical centre and occupational health businesses in Australia. C.J. Jackson is an Executive Director of Sonic who is a member of PSEC, represents Sonic in industry matters and undertakes various projects and initiatives.

The Board therefore considers that the Executive Directors and the Non-executive Directors are the Group's "key management personnel".

(b) Performance of the Group and relationship to remuneration of key management personnel
The table below summarises Sonic Healthcare's performance over the last five years and the changes in remuneration of key management personnel (but excluding Non-executive Directors who do not receive bonuses or equity-based remuneration):

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Compound Average Annual Growth Rate[1]
Growth in EBITDA (on a constant currency basis)	11.3%	12.1%	4.5%	5.4%	(6.2)%	5.2%
Net profit attributable to members ($'000)	294,535	315,996	334,998	384,984	347,698	3.5%
Ordinary earnings per share (cps)	75.5	80.7	84.3	95.5	86.0	2.8%
Dividends paid per share (cps)	59	59	60	64	69	
Enterprise value[2] ($'000)	6,534,718	6,536,398	7,620,761	8,684,854	10,566,549	
Total shareholder return[3]	1.5%	19.2%	64.6%	54.1%	90.0%	
Change in total cash remuneration of executives[4]	0.6%	4.7%	(20.0)%	24.2%	(1.1)%	0.7%
Change in total remuneration of executives[5]	(18.9)%	(3.0)%	(11.3)%	(2.5)%	(9.4)%	(9.2)%

1 The compound average annual growth rate is calculated over the five year period shown with 2010 as the base year.
2 Enterprise value is the Company's market capitalisation (number of issued shares times closing share price) plus net interest bearing debt at 30 June.
3 Total shareholder return is calculated over a rolling 3 year performance period and assumes dividend reinvestment.
4 Change in total cash remuneration of executives is the percentage increase/(decrease) over the prior year of total cash remuneration of all key management personnel in place for all five years (but excluding Non-executive Directors).
5 Change in total remuneration of executives is the percentage increase/(decrease) over the prior year of total remuneration (cash plus long service leave accrued plus the calculated value of equity remuneration) of all key management personnel in place for all five years (but excluding Non-executive Directors).

Remuneration Report (continued)

(b) Performance of the Group and relationship to remuneration of key management personnel (continued)
The table above demonstrates the relationship between the performance of the Group and the remuneration of its key management personnel. Cash remuneration has fluctuated from year to year, largely dependent on whether the annual performance hurdle related to EBITDA growth which applies to 70% of the target short term incentives (STI) for the Managing Director and Finance Director was met. Over the five year period cash remuneration has increased slightly as the Company's earnings growth has been relatively modest. Total remuneration has reduced over the five years due to elements of equity based remuneration not meeting challenging (non-market based) performance conditions.

(c) Remuneration of key management personnel
Details of the nature and amount of each element of the remuneration of the key management personnel of the Group are set out below in the tables (for cash remuneration) and text (non-cash remuneration):

12 months to 30 June 2015

	Short-term employee benefits			**Post-employment benefits**	
Name	**Salary & fees** $	**Other benefits**[1] $	**Short term incentives (STI)** $	**Superannuation** $	**Total cash remuneration**[2] $
Dr C.S. Goldschmidt *Managing Director*	2,241,217	-	678,000	18,783	2,938,000
C.D. Wilks *Finance Director*	1,039,217	-	317,400	18,783	1,375,400
Dr P.J. Dubois *Director*	617,741	7,313	150,000	31,051	806,105
C.J. Jackson *Director*	266,217	-	-	18,783	285,000
R.P. Campbell *Chairman and Non-executive Director*	271,217	-	-	18,783	290,000
Prof M.R. Compton *Non-executive Director*	102,740	-	-	9,760	112,500
L.J. Panaccio *Non-executive Director*	153,044	-	-	14,540	167,584
K.D. Spargo *Non-executive Director*	146,119	-	-	13,881	160,000
Dr E.J. Wilson *Non-executive Director*	141,553	-	-	13,447	155,000

[1] Other benefits include fringe benefits tax.
[2] Excludes long service leave accruals and equity-based remuneration.

Remuneration Report (continued)

(c) Remuneration of key management personnel (continued)

12 months to 30 June 2014

	Short-term employee benefits			Post-employment benefits	
Name	**Salary & fees** $	**Other benefits**[1] $	**Short term incentives (STI)** $	**Superannuation** $	**Total cash remuneration**[2] $
Dr C.S. Goldschmidt *Managing Director*	2,104,475	-	900,848	17,775	3,023,098
C.D. Wilks *Finance Director*	952,225	-	439,410	17,775	1,409,410
Dr P.J. Dubois *Director*	551,984	8,059	150,000	37,123	747,166
C.J. Jackson *Director*	267,225	-	-	17,775	285,000
R.P. Campbell *Chairman and Non-executive Director*	272,225	-	-	17,775	290,000
L.J. Panaccio *Non-executive Director*	149,199	-	-	13,801	163,000
K.D. Spargo *Non-executive Director*	146,453	-	-	13,547	160,000
Dr E.J. Wilson *Non-executive Director*	141,876	-	-	13,124	155,000

[1] Other benefits include fringe benefits tax.
[2] Excludes long service leave accruals and equity-based remuneration.

In addition to the cash remuneration disclosed above, the value of long service leave accrued for each relevant executive for the 12 months to 30 June 2015 was: Dr C.S. Goldschmidt $36,781 (2014: $199,975), C.D. Wilks $17,048 (2014: $56,108), and C.J. Jackson $4,040 (2014: $3,961).

(i) Equity-based remuneration

The calculated remuneration value of options and performance rights for Dr C.S. Goldschmidt for the 12 month period to 30 June 2015 was $382,784 (2014: $604,120), and for C.D. Wilks it was $161,371 (2014: $302,059). The options and performance rights are subject to challenging vesting conditions and only 50% (2014: 42%) of the options and performance rights with a performance measurement period for 4 years (2014: 3 years) to 30 June 2015 (2014: 2014) satisfied the vesting conditions.

The equity-based remuneration amounts disclosed for 2015 relate to options and performance rights issued under the Sonic Healthcare Limited Employee Option Plan and the Performance Rights Plan, and represent the assessed fair values at the date they were granted, allocated equally over the service periods up to the vesting dates. Fair values for these options and performance rights have been determined using a pricing model consistent with the Black Scholes methodology that takes into account the exercise price, the term of the option, the impact of dilution, the non-tradeable nature of the option, the current price and expected price volatility of the underlying share, the expected dividend yield, and risk-free interest rate for the term of the option. The fair value of the options and performance rights granted is adjusted to reflect market vesting conditions (using a Monte Carlo simulation) but excludes the impact of non-market vesting conditions.

No options or performance rights are issuable in future years to Dr C.S. Goldschmidt and C.D. Wilks relating to remuneration arrangements for periods to 30 June 2015.

Remuneration Report (continued)

(c) Remuneration of key management personnel (continued)

(i) Equity-based remuneration (continued)
No key management personnel exercised options or performance rights during the 2015 financial year. During the prior financial year the following options over ordinary shares in the Company were exercised by key management personnel (no performance rights were exercised):

	Dr C.S. Goldschmidt	C.D. Wilks
Executive Incentive Plan options issued as remuneration for periods to 30 June 2008 (having vested after satisfying challenging performance conditions) with an exercise price of $7.50	1,000,000	540,000
Employee Option Plan options issued in November 2008 as remuneration for periods to 30 June 2011 (having vested after satisfying challenging performance conditions which caused 59.3% of the total options issued to be forfeited) with an exercise price of $12.98	712,250	356,125
Total intrinsic value of the options at the date of exercise	$10,103,730	$5,368,265

There are no more options or performance rights on issue related to remuneration for periods prior to 1 July 2011.

(ii) Performance related components of remuneration
Cash bonuses, options and performance rights over unissued ordinary shares of Sonic Healthcare Limited are performance related components of Dr C.S. Goldschmidt's and C.D. Wilks' remuneration. In aggregate, these components made up 32% of Dr C.S. Goldschmidt's remuneration for the 12 months to 30 June 2015 (2014: 39%), and 31% of C.D. Wilks' remuneration for the 12 months to 30 June 2015 (2014: 42%). Within these components, the calculated value of options and performance rights over unissued ordinary shares in Sonic Healthcare Limited accounted for 11% of Dr C.S. Goldschmidt's remuneration for the 12 months to 30 June 2015 (2014: 16%) and 10% of C.D. Wilks' remuneration for the 12 months to 30 June 2015 (2014: 17%). Dr P.J. Dubois' remuneration includes cash bonuses as performance related components. These components made up 19% of Dr P.J. Dubois' remuneration for the 12 months to 30 June 2015 (2014: 20%).

The total value for remuneration disclosure purposes (to be allocated over the three year vesting period) of the options and performance rights that were issued in 2015 as part of remuneration was $1,508,460 for Dr C.S. Goldschmidt and $601,194 for C.D. Wilks.

(d) Service agreements
None of the key management personnel of Sonic Healthcare Limited has a service contract. Rather the terms and entitlements of employment are governed by applicable employment laws.

Dr P.J. Dubois has a cash bonus arrangement in place which is based on the satisfaction of performance conditions relating to the earnings of Queensland X-Ray, where he performs the role of CEO.

Remuneration for Dr C.S. Goldschmidt and C.D. Wilks
Remuneration arrangements for Dr C.S. Goldschmidt and C.D. Wilks were revised in 2014 following a comprehensive review by the Remuneration and Nomination Committee. As part of this review the Committee directly engaged Ernst & Young as independent remuneration consultants to provide market benchmarking analysis and information on possible remuneration arrangements. Ernst & Young considered the level of total and individual components of remuneration and made detailed comparisons by percentile band against two ASX listed comparator groups, being:

- Market Capitalisation comparator group: includes companies with market capitalisation of 50% to 200% of Sonic's 12-month average market capitalisation, excluding Financials and Metals and Mining companies. This resulted in a group of 34 companies.
- Geographic comparator group: includes companies included in the Market Capitalisation comparator group, but excluding companies where less than a quarter of annual revenue can be attributed to overseas operations. This resulted in a group of 16 companies.

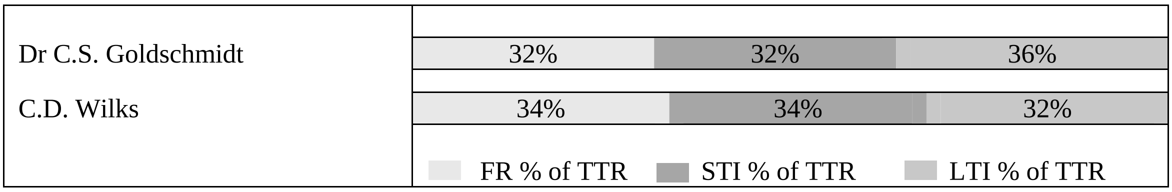
As a further reference point, data for other companies within the Health Care sector of the ASX was specifically considered.

Remuneration Report (continued)

(d) Service agreements (continued)

The Remuneration and Nomination Committee concluded from the benchmarking analysis that the existing levels of remuneration (particularly the Fixed and STI components) required adjustment given Sonic's market capitalisation, the complexity of its operations (including that approximately 50% of revenue was sourced offshore, from seven other countries) and, in particular, the value to the Company of the two executives. Dr C.S. Goldschmidt and C.D. Wilks have been in their current roles since 1993. Their knowledge, experience, and the reputation they have in the market are considered extremely valuable to the Company. Under their leadership Sonic Healthcare has been the best performing stock on the ASX for the period from January 1993 to September 2015, with a return of over 30,000% (Total Shareholder Return, assuming reinvestment of dividends). The Committee therefore determined that Total Target Remuneration ("TTR") for Dr C.S. Goldschmidt should be positioned at the 75th percentile of the Market Capitalisation comparator group (between the median and the 75th percentile of the Geographic comparator group) and total target remuneration for C.D. Wilks should be positioned at the 80th percentile of both comparator groups reflecting the broader than usual role he performs as Finance Director and CFO.

Remuneration from 1 July 2014 comprises the following percentage components (mix in line with market norms):



Summary of target remuneration for Dr C.S. Goldschmidt and C.D. Wilks:

	Actual STI Paid $	% of Target STI Actually Paid	Target STI $	Fixed Remuneration (FR) $	Target LTI $
Dr C.S. Goldschmidt					
2014	900,848	60.4%	1,491,470	2,122,250	1,800,000
2015	678,000	30.0%	2,260,000	2,260,000	2,479,000
2016	tbd	tbd	2,327,800	2,327,800	2,553,370
C.D. Wilks					
2014	439,410	60.4%	727,500	970,000	900,000
2015	317,400	30.0%	1,058,000	1,058,000	988,000
2016	tbd	tbd	1,089,740	1,089,740	1,017,640

(i) Fixed remuneration

The fixed remuneration component comprises base salary and employer superannuation contributions, but excludes long service leave accruals. The executives may take part of their base salary as other benefits, such as motor vehicles, including any associated fringe benefits tax. Fixed remuneration is reviewed annually, taking into account the executives' performance, Company performance and comparative market data. The 2014 detailed review set the fixed remuneration from 1 January 2014. The Board then approved a 3% (broadly in line with inflation) increase in fixed remuneration with effect from 1 July 2015.

(ii) Short Term Incentives ("STI")

The executives are eligible for an annual cash bonus based on achievement of pre-determined goals. The target level of STI is a set proportion (100% for 2015 and 2016) of the executives' fixed remuneration.

Up to 70% of the target STI is based on the Company achieving year on year growth (using Constant Currency exchange rates to translate offshore earnings) in Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation ("EBITDA"). EBITDA growth is used as a performance criterion as it is consistent with the way Sonic gives earnings guidance to the market, and it is a clearer measure of operational performance than net profit or earnings per share as it is not distorted by changes in income tax, interest rates, or exchange rates. EBITDA growth hurdles are set at the beginning of each year. The table below sets out the EBITDA growth targets and hurdles for 2014 to 2016.

Remuneration Report (continued)

(d) Service agreements (continued)

(ii) Short Term Incentives ("STI") (continued)

	2014	2015	2016
Target EBITDA growth	12%	5%	19%

% of Target EBITDA Growth Achieved	% of 70% of Target STI payable		
Less than 60% (2014: 41.67%)	0%	0%	0%
60% (2014: 41.67%)	40%	40%	40%
Between 60% (2014: 41.67%) and 100%, pro rata between	40% and 100%	40% and 80%	40% and 80%
100%	100%	80%	80%
Between 100% and 200%, pro rata between	n/a	80% and 150%	80% and 150%
200% or greater	n/a	150%	150%

The growth targets allow for the contributions from acquisitions that are known when the targets are set. From 2015 the potential contribution to EBITDA growth of acquisitions that were not known in setting the target growth rate has been capped at a maximum of 2% for the purpose of the performance assessment. The Board ensures the growth calculation is performed on a consistent basis (for example, by removing the impact of a change of accounting standards).

Up to 30% of the target STI is awarded after an assessment of performance based on qualitative factors including:

- Promotion of and adherence to Sonic's Core Values and Foundation Principles.
- Medical Leadership.
- Federation model.
- Risk management.
- External standing and reputation (including stakeholder management, brand and quality).
- Financial leadership and innovation (for C.D. Wilks).

In the same way that it is possible for the executives to earn more than 100% of the quantitative portion of the Target STI, from 2016 it will also be possible for the executives to earn up to 150% of the qualitative portion if, in the Board's view, they have been instrumental in specific seminal events outside the ordinary course of business occurring within the year that have very significantly enhanced Sonic's value and/or its brands, reputation or standing without necessarily having impacted on Sonic's profit in the year. An annual assessment of each executive's performance is made by the Remuneration and Nomination Committee and a recommendation made to the Board for final determination. The table above shows the total STI amounts awarded by year. For the 2015 financial year no award was achieved under the quantitative measure, however the maximum amount was awarded under the qualitative factors, as the Board is satisfied that the executives have performed strongly in the areas of assessment during 2015, and no issues have arisen during the year that would suggest anything to the contrary.

(iii) Long Term Incentives ("LTI")
After approval by shareholders at the 2011 AGM, the executives were issued the following LTI (the "2011 Issue") to provide incentives through to the end of the 2016 year in the form of options and performance rights over shares in Sonic Healthcare Limited, subject to performance conditions.

Dr C.S. Goldschmidt		C.D. Wilks		Earliest Vesting	Performance conditions	Expiry date
Options	**Rights**	**Options**	**Rights**	**Date**	**measurement period**	
894,039	94,488	447,019	47,244	18 November 2014	3 years to 30 June 2014	18 November 2016
868,167	94,488	434,083	47,244	18 November 2015	4 years to 30 June 2015	18 November 2017
1,136,842	125,984	568,421	62,992	18 November 2016	5 years to 30 June 2016	18 November 2018
2,899,048	314,960	1,449,523	157,480			

Following the 2014 remuneration review, it is intended (conditional on approval by shareholders) that Dr C.S. Goldschmidt and C.D. Wilks receive annual grants of equity-based remuneration, subject to performance conditions with measurement periods of three years. Annual grants have a number of benefits versus the less frequent, larger grants used in the past, including allowing the Company to determine the appropriate performance hurdles each year for the grant being made, adjust the mix between type of instruments for changes in circumstances (e.g. tax law), and / or select different measures to take into account changes in the Company's strategy or context. It also provides the opportunity for shareholders to vote on the proposed grants each year, taking into account recent Company performance.

Remuneration Report (continued)

(d) Service agreements (continued)

(iii) Long Term Incentives ("LTI") (continued)

After approval by shareholders at the 2014 Annual General Meeting ("AGM"), the executives were issued the following LTI (the "2014 Issue"):

	Dr C.S. Goldschmidt	**C.D. Wilks**
Options over shares in Sonic Healthcare Limited	504,887	201,221
Performance rights over shares in Sonic Healthcare Limited	71,564	28,521

The options and performance rights will vest three years from grant date, if performance conditions are met for the period of three years to 30 June 2017. They will expire 5 years from grant date. The fair value of the options and performance rights at the grant date was $1.36 and $11.45 respectively. The options have an exercise price of $17.32.

Conditional on approval by shareholders at the 2015 Annual General Meeting ("AGM"), the executives will be issued the following LTI (the "2015 Issue"):

	Dr C.S. Goldschmidt	**C.D. Wilks**
Maximum value of LTI	$2,553,370	$1,017,640
Consisting of:		
Options over shares in Sonic Healthcare Limited	50%	50%
Performance rights over shares in Sonic Healthcare Limited	50%	50%

The options and performance rights will vest three years from grant date, if performance conditions are met for the period of three years to 30 June 2018. They will expire 5 years from grant date.

For all tranches of options and performance rights described above, issued and proposed:

- options can only vest when the market price of Sonic shares is higher than the exercise price.
- the exercise price of the options was/will be determined using the Volume Weighted five day Average market Price ("5 day VWAP") for Sonic shares preceding the date of grant (for the 2015 issue this is proposed to be the date of the 2015 AGM).
- the number of options issued were/will be determined based on a Black Scholes methodology valuation at the time of grant. The valuation did/will not allow for any discount relating to performance conditions.
- the number of performance rights to be issued were/will be determined by dividing 50% of the maximum value of LTI by the 5 day VWAP for Sonic shares preceding the date of grant.
- the options and performance rights are/will be subject to challenging performance conditions designed to align the interests of the executives with those of shareholders. The performance conditions are as follows:

Performance Condition 1 ("PC1") — Sonic's Total Shareholder Return ("TSR") against the S&P ASX 100 Accumulation Index, excluding Banks and Resource companies
50% weighting (all Issues)

TSR Ranking achieved	Percentage of Options and Rights that vest
Below the 51st (2011 Issue: 50th) percentile	Nil options and rights to which PC1 applies
51st (2011 Issue: 50th) percentile	50% of options and rights to which PC1 applies
Greater than 51st (2011 Issue: 50th) and less than 75th percentile	Pro rata between 50% and 100% of options and rights to which PC1 applies
75th percentile and above	100% of options and rights to which PC1 applies

Under PC1, Sonic's performance is ranked by percentile according to its TSR against the TSRs of the component companies of the reference group (being the S&P ASX 100 Accumulation Index, excluding Banks and Resource companies) over the relevant performance periods.

Remuneration Report (continued)

(d) Service agreements (continued)

(iii) Long Term Incentives ("LTI") (continued)
Relative TSR is used as a performance hurdle as it provides a direct link between executive remuneration and shareholder return relative to the Company's peers. A relative measure is important, as it removes from the assessment broad market share price movements which are out of the control of the executives. The executives will not derive any value from the relevant portion of the LTI unless the Company's performance is at least at the median of the benchmark group.

PC1 (TSR) Results

Performance measurement period	TSR Rank Achieved	% Eligible to Vest	Vesting Options	Vesting Performance Rights	Forfeited Options	Forfeited Rights
1 July 2011 to 30 June 2014	67%	84%	584,406	59,527	86,123	11,339
1 July 2011 to 30 June 2015	76%	100%	651,126	70,866	-	-

Of the Issues and tranches described above, only the first tranche of the options or performance rights issued in November 2011 had vested or been forfeited at 30 June 2015 (2014: Nil).

Performance Condition 2 ("PC2") – Compound Average Growth Rate ("CAGR") in Return on Invested Capital ("ROIC")
Weighting: 2011 Issue: 50%, 2014 Issue: 25%, 2015 Issue: 0%

CAGR ROIC achieved	Percentage of Options and Rights that vest
Less than 1.08% (2011 Issue: 3%) p.a.	Nil options and rights to which PC2 applies
1.08% (2011 Issue: 3%) p.a.	50% (2011 issue: 30%) of options and rights to which PC2 applies
Greater than 1.08% and less than 3% (2011 Issue: 3% and 9%)	Pro rata between 50% (2011 Issue: 30%) and 100% of options and rights to which PC2 applies
3% (2011 Issue: 9%) or greater	100% of options and rights to which PC2 applies

ROIC is calculated as Earnings before Interest and Tax ("EBIT") less related tax and minority interests divided by capital employed (see below for detailed calculation). It is expressed as a percentage and the hurdle growth rates are growth in this percentage. Growth in ROIC was chosen as a performance hurdle as the Board believed that a primary focus should be improvement in the return from the substantial investments the Company has made in its offshore markets. A ROIC related hurdle is not proposed for the 2015 Issue as the Board is concerned that the measure is proving too volatile to be an effective incentive, and that it could be a disincentive for the executives to pursue acquisitions that are value enhancing for shareholders in the medium and long term (once growth and synergies are achieved).

ROIC = (EBIT[1] less minority interests[2] less cash taxes paid in year[3]) / Average[4] invested capital[5]

[1] EBIT is statutory EBIT per the Annual Report.
[2] Minority interests are as disclosed in the Income Statement of the Annual Report.
[3] Cash taxes paid are as per the Cash Flow Statement disclosure in the Annual Report adjusted for the tax impact of interest (using the Australian Corporate Tax Rate, currently 30% i.e. 30% of Net Interest Expense).
[4] The average is taken from the opening and closing invested capital position for each financial year.
[5] Invested capital is measured as shareholders' equity plus net interest bearing debt less deferred taxes.

PC2 (ROIC) Results

Performance measurement period	Actual CAGR ROIC	% Eligible to Vest	Vesting Options	Vesting Performance Rights	Forfeited Options	Forfeited Rights
1 July 2011 to 30 June 2014	1.1%	-	-	-	670,529	70,866
1 July 2011 to 30 June 2015	(5.2)%	-	-	-	651,124	70,866

Remuneration Report (continued)

(d) Service agreements (continued)

(iii) Long Term Incentives ("LTI") (continued)

Performance Condition 3 ("PC3") – Compound Average Growth Rate ("CAGR") in Earnings Per Share ("EPS")
Weighting: 2011 issue: 0%, 2014 issue: 25%, 2015 issue: 50%

CAGR EPS	Percentage of Options and Rights that vest
Less than 4% p.a.	Nil options and rights to which PC3 applies
4% p.a.	40% of options and rights to which PC3 applies
Greater than 4% and less than 10% p.a.	Pro rata between 40% and 100% of options and rights to which PC3 applies
10% p.a. or greater	100% of options and rights to which PC3 applies

EPS is calculated as Net Profit after Tax divided by the fully diluted weighted average number of ordinary shares on issue during a year. Growth in EPS has been chosen as a hurdle as it is a direct measure of Company performance and maintains a strong correlation with long term shareholder return.

Whilst the general intention is to use statutory reported numbers for transparency in measuring performance under PC2 and PC3, given the period into the future involved, should the statutory numbers cause an anomalous result, adjustments to the statutory numbers may be made by the Board to ensure the intent of the incentive plan is maintained.

Options and performance rights for which the performance conditions are not satisfied are forfeited immediately after the performance measurement is finalised. There is no retesting.

Should one of the executives cease employment with the Group prior to vesting of some or all of their LTI, the Board will have discretion based on whether the executive is judged to be a "good leaver" to enable the executive to retain the portion of the LTI which vests (subject to the performance conditions) within two years of cessation of employment. To be judged a "good leaver" the executive would need to provide sufficient notice, assist with succession planning and transition and make themselves reasonably available to assist/answer queries of their replacement for a period post-employment. The Board views this arrangement to be in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders, as the executives will be incentivised to minimise disruption/loss of value associated with their departure. Cessation of employment in all other circumstances will trigger forfeiture of all unvested entitlements.

If a takeover bid or other public proposal is made for voting shares in the Company which the Board reasonably believes is likely to lead to a change of control:

- For the 2011 Issue:
  - If the proposal occurs within three years from grant – only options and rights with a vesting date 3 years from grant would vest.
  - If the proposal occurs within the fourth year from grant – only options and rights with a vesting date within 4 years from grant not previously forfeited would vest.
  - If the proposal occurs within the fifth year of grant – all options and rights not previously forfeited would vest.

- For the 2014 and 2015 Issues:
  - Unvested options and rights may vest at the Board's discretion, having regard to pro rata performance and the circumstances leading to the potential change of control.

Sonic Healthcare ordinary shares to be awarded on exercise/conversion of the options and performance rights may be satisfied by the issue of new shares or the purchase of shares on-market. Options and performance rights are not eligible for dividends.

Remuneration Report (continued)

(e) Equity disclosures relating to key management personnel

(i) Option holdings
The number of options over ordinary shares held beneficially or personally during the current financial year by the key management personnel of the Group in relation to remuneration arrangements are set out below.

2015 Name	Balance at 1 July 2014	Issued during the 2015 year	Forfeited during the 2015 year	Exercised during the 2015 year	Balance at 30 June 2015	Forfeited since year end	Vested and exercisable at 30 June 2015
Dr C.S. Goldschmidt	2,899,048	504,887	(504,434)	-	2,899,501	(434,083)	389,605
C.D. Wilks	1,449,523	201,221	(252,218)	-	1,398,526	(217,041)	194,801

(ii) Performance rights
The number of performance rights held personally or beneficially during the current financial year by the key management personnel of the Group in relation to remuneration arrangements are set out below.

2015 Name	Balance at 1 July 2014	Issued during the 2015 year	Forfeited during the 2015 year	Exercised during the 2015 year	Balance at 30 June 2015	Forfeited since year end	Vested and exercisable at 30 June 2015
Dr C.S. Goldschmidt	314,960	71,564	(54,803)	-	331,721	(47,244)	39,685
C.D. Wilks	157,480	28,521	(27,402)	-	158,599	(23,622)	19,842

(iii) Share holdings
The number of shares held personally or beneficially during the current financial year by the key management personnel of the Group are set out below.

2015 Name	Balance at 1 July 2014	Issued during the 2015 year on the exercise of options or rights	Shares provided as remuneration during the 2015 year	Other changes during the 2015 year	Balance at 30 June 2015
Dr C.S. Goldschmidt	730,243	-	-	(200,000)	530,243
C.D. Wilks	994,247	-	-	(350,000)	644,247
Dr P.J. Dubois	8,000	-	-	-	8,000
C.J. Jackson	461,371	-	-	(5,000)	456,371
R.P. Campbell	10,271	-	-	-	10,271
Prof M.R. Compton	-	-	-	2,013	2,013
L.J. Panaccio	-	-	-	-	-
K.D. Spargo	8,000	-	-	-	8,000
Dr E.J. Wilson	2,000	-	-	-	2,000

(f) Transactions with key management personnel
During the financial year rental expense payments totalling $579,523 (2014: $567,927) have been made by the Group to Director related entities, including unit trusts, private companies and spouses. The rental transactions were based on normal terms and conditions and at market rates. No balance was outstanding at the end of the current or preceding year. The Director who had an interest in the rental transactions in the current and preceding financial year was C.J. Jackson.

(g) Amounts receivable from/payable to other key management personnel
There were no amounts receivable from/payable to other key management personnel at 30 June 2015 (2014: $nil).

(h) Doubtful debts
No provision for doubtful debts has been raised in relation to any receivable or loan balance with key management personnel, nor has any expense been recognised.

Remuneration Report (continued)

(i) Securities trading policy

Under the Sonic Securities Trading Policy, all Sonic Healthcare employees are prohibited from buying or selling Sonic Healthcare securities (including shares, options, debt securities) at any time they are aware of any material price sensitive information that has not been made public, and are reminded of the laws against “insider trading”.

Certain “Designated Officers”, including all Directors and senior executives (and specified related parties), are also prohibited from trading in periods other than in 8 week windows following the release of half year and full year results, and 2 week periods following Sonic Healthcare’s provision to the market at any time of definitive guidance regarding the next annual result to be released. The Sonic Board of Directors must specifically consider and approve the opening of the “trading window” in each instance. Exceptions to this prohibition can be approved by the Chairman (for Directors) or the Managing Director (for all other employees) in circumstances of severe financial hardship (as defined in the Policy). Sonic’s Chair or Managing Director may impose other periods when Designated Officers are prohibited from trading because price sensitive, non-public information may exist. All trading by Designated Officers must be notified to the Company Secretary. Prohibitions also apply to trading in financial instruments related to Sonic Healthcare shares and to trading in the shares of other entities using information obtained through employment with Sonic. In addition the Managing Director and Finance Director are required to obtain approval from the Chair of the Sonic Board of Directors before selling any shares.

Designated Officers are prohibited from entering into transactions in products which limit the economic risk of participating in unvested entitlements under any equity-based remuneration schemes and from short-term trading and short selling arrangements in relation to Sonic securities. Designated Officers are required to commit to these prohibitions by signing the Securities Trading Policy and will forfeit their equity reward should they be found to be in breach. Directors of Sonic Healthcare Limited are also prohibited from entering into margin lending or other secured financing arrangements in relation to Sonic securities without the prior approval of the Chair and disclosure of such arrangements to the Board.

All Sonic Healthcare securities dealings by Directors are promptly notified to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) in accordance with Sonic’s Continuous Disclosure obligations.

(j) Use of remuneration consultant

Sonic Healthcare Limited did not employ the services of a remuneration consultant in 2015.

(k) Voting at the Company’s 2014 Annual General Meeting

Over 91% of votes cast on a poll on Sonic Healthcare Limited’s Remuneration Report for the 2014 financial year were in favour.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.

Dr C.S. Goldschmidt
Director

C.D. Wilks
Director

Sydney
24 September 2015

Auditor's Independence Declaration

As lead auditor for the audit of Sonic Healthcare Limited for the year ended 30 June 2015, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and

b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of Sonic Healthcare Limited and the entities it controlled during the period.

Mark Dow
Partner
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Sydney
24 September 2015

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Corporate Governance Statement

The Board of Sonic Healthcare continues to place great importance on the governance of the Company, which it believes is vital to its well-being and success. There are two elements to the governance of companies: performance and conformance. Both are important, but it is critical that focus on conformance does not detract from the principal function of a business, which is to undertake prudent activities to:

- generate rewards for shareholders who invest their capital,
- provide services of value to customers, and
- provide meaningful employment for employees,

and to do so in a way that contributes positively to the community.

The principal features of Sonic's corporate governance framework are set out in this statement, which is current as at 24 September 2015 and has been approved by the Board.

Sonic's Board and management are committed to governance which recognises that all aspects of the Group's operations are conducted ethically, responsibly and with the highest standards of integrity. The Board has adopted practices and policies designed to achieve these aims. Sonic supports the ASX Corporate Governance Council Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations ("the Recommendations") in advancing good corporate governance, and has applied the third edition during the 2015 financial year. Sonic's Board continues to review and improve Sonic's compliance with the Recommendations, implementing change in a prudent manner. Sonic's website (www.sonichealthcare.com) includes a Corporate Governance section which sets out the information required by the Recommendations plus other relevant information, including copies of all Policies, Charters and Codes referred to in this report.

Sonic's Code of Ethics and Core Values (listed below) set out the fundamental principles that govern the way that all Sonic people conduct themselves. Sonic's Core Values apply equally to every employee of Sonic and were formulated with significant input from Sonic's staff. They have been embraced throughout the Group. Sonic's Core Values are:

- **Commit to Service Excellence**
  To willingly serve all those with whom we deal; with unsurpassed excellence.

- **Treat each other with Respect & Honesty**
  To grow a workplace where trust, team spirit and equity are an integral part of everything we do.

- **Demonstrate Responsibility & Accountability**
  To set an example, to take ownership of each situation to the best of our ability and to seek help when needed.

- **Be Enthusiastic about Continuous Improvement**
  To never be complacent, to recognise limitations and opportunities for ourselves and processes; and to learn through these.

- **Maintain Confidentiality**
  To keep all information pertaining to patients, as well as professional and commercial issues, in strict confidence.

A description of the Company's main corporate governance practices is set out below. All these practices, unless otherwise stated, were in place throughout the 2015 financial year. Any issues of non-compliance with the Recommendations are specifically noted and explained.

1. Board of Directors

Profiles of the Directors and Company Secretary are included in the Directors' Report.

(a) Role of the Board

The Board of Directors is accountable to shareholders for the performance of the Company and the Group and is responsible for the corporate governance practices of the Group. The Board's principal objective is to increase shareholder value while ensuring that the Group's overall activities are properly managed.

Sonic's corporate governance practices provide the structure which enables the Board's principal objective to be achieved, whilst ensuring that the business and affairs of the Group are conducted ethically and in accordance with law.

The Board's overall responsibilities include:

- providing strategic direction and approving corporate strategies,
- monitoring management and financial performance and reporting,
- appointing the Chair and Managing Director, and assessing the performance of Directors,
- monitoring and ensuring the maintenance of adequate risk management identification, control and reporting mechanisms, and
- ensuring the business is conducted ethically and transparently.

The Board delegates authority for operational management of the business to the Managing Director and senior executives. The Managing Director also oversees the implementation of strategies approved by the Board, and is responsible for providing accurate and relevant information to enable the Board to perform its responsibilities. Senior executives reporting to the Managing Director have their roles and responsibilities defined in specific position descriptions. The Board uses a number of Committees to support it in matters that require more intensive review and involvement. Details of the Board Committees are provided below.

As part of its commitment to good corporate governance, the Board regularly reviews the practices and standards governing the Board's composition, independence and effectiveness, the accountability and compensation of Directors (and senior executives) and the Board's responsibility for the stewardship of the Group.

The role and responsibilities of the Board, the functions reserved for the Board and those delegated to management have been formalised in the Sonic Board Charter available at http://www.sonichealthcare.com/about-us/corporate-governance/board-of-directors-.aspx.

The Company Secretary is appointed by the Board and is accountable directly to the Board, through the Chair, on all matters to do with the proper functioning of the Board. Each Director is able to communicate directly with the Company Secretary.

1. Board of Directors (continued)

(b) Composition of the Board

The Directors of the Company in office at the date of this statement are:

Name	*Age*	*Term of office (Years)*	*Position*	*Expertise*	*Committees*
Mr Peter Campbell	70	22	Chairman, Non-executive, independent Director	Finance and accounting, information technology and company management	Member of Remuneration and Nomination Committee
Dr Colin Goldschmidt	61	22	Managing Director, Chief Executive Officer	Healthcare industry and company management. Qualified Pathologist	Member of Risk Management Committee
Mr Chris Wilks	57	25	Finance Director, Chief Financial Officer	Finance, accounting, banking, secretarial and company management	
Prof Mark Compton	54	1	Non-executive, independent Director	Healthcare industry and company management.	Member of Audit Committee
Dr Philip Dubois	69	14	Executive Director	Diagnostic imaging industry and company management. Qualified Radiologist	
Mr Colin Jackson	67	15	Executive Director	Finance, healthcare industry and company management	
Mr Lou Panaccio	58	10	Non-executive, independent Director	Finance, healthcare industry and company management	Chair of Audit Committee, and member of Remuneration and Nomination Committee and Risk Management Committee
Ms Kate Spargo	63	5	Non-executive, independent Director	Law, governance and company oversight	Chair of Remuneration and Nomination Committee and member of Audit Committee
Dr Jane Wilson	57	5	Non-executive, independent Director	Medicine, finance, governance and company oversight. Qualified General Practitioner	Chair of Risk Management Committee and member of Remuneration and Nomination Committee

The composition of Sonic's Board is consistent with the principle of medical management and leadership, which has been a core strategy of Sonic since 1993. Sonic's Managing Director is a qualified pathologist, and the Board also includes a radiologist and a general practitioner, ensuring that it has the capacity to understand complex medical issues and be in close touch with the medical marketplace. The presence of medical practitioners on Sonic's Board also gives comfort both to referring doctors (Sonic's customers) and to owners of diagnostic practices which Sonic seeks to acquire. This strategy has resulted in a Board which has a relatively high proportion of Executive Directors. The Board currently comprises five independent and four Executive Directors.

Dr Dubois and Mr Jackson were appointed to the Board following acquisitions of practices in which they held leadership positions. Their presence on the Board has played an important role in consolidating several of the larger independent practices acquired by Sonic into a cohesive group.

In addition, the Sonic Board comprises members with a diverse mix of business skills, including industry specific management skills and experience, and broader management experience, finance and legal skills and expertise in corporate governance. The Board considers that it has an appropriate mix of skills, expertise, tenure and diversity.

Sonic's Non-executive Directors, including the Chairman, are considered independent and perform major roles in the Board Committees.

1. Board of Directors (continued)

(b) Composition of the Board (continued)

The Board has resolved that the position of Chairman of the Board be held by an independent Director, and the position of Chairman and Managing Director will be held by different persons. The Board has also resolved that, in its view, the mere fact that a Director has been in office for a period greater than 10 years does not change that Director's status as an independent. The independence of each of the Non-Executive Directors is assessed annually, and it is the view of the Board that each should continue to be regarded as independent. The tenure of Mr Campbell was specifically addressed in his assessment and the Board was satisfied that he has not become too close to management such that his capacity to bring independent judgement to bear or to act in the best interests of all security holders is compromised.

(c) Board renewal

The size and composition of the Board is determined by the full Board acting on recommendations of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee. Sonic's constitution requires that the Board comprise no more than 12 and no fewer than 3 Directors at any time. Sonic's constitution also requires all Directors, other than the Managing Director, to offer themselves for re-election at an AGM, such that they do not hold office without re-election for longer than three years. From July 2014, the Board Charter requires that Non-executive Directors who have already served for four three year terms must then offer themselves for re-election at each AGM.

The Board (with input from the Remuneration and Nomination Committee) regularly reviews its succession planning. A skills matrix is used to guide the assessment of the current Directors, and to identify desirable characteristics for future appointments. The matrix reflects the Board's objective to have an appropriate mix of medical leadership, industry experience, listed entity experience, management skills, financial expertise, legal expertise, governance expertise, strategic focus, and tenure and gender diversity.

Mr Campbell has announced that he will retire as Chairman and as a Director at the conclusion of the 2015 AGM. Prof Compton will assume the role of Chairman of the Board and join the Remuneration and Nomination Committee from that time. Mr Jackson has also advised that he will retire as a Director at the conclusion of the 2015 AGM. Following these changes the Sonic Board will consist of four independent and three Executive Directors.

Before appointing a Director, Sonic undertakes comprehensive reference checks including education, employment, character reference, criminal record, and bankruptcy checks. Potential existing or foreseeable future conflicts of interest are also considered.

Directors receive a letter of appointment and a deed of access and indemnity. The letter of appointment outlines Sonic's expectations of directors with respect to their participation, time commitment and compliance with Sonic policies. An induction process for incoming directors is coordinated by the Company Secretary. To assist Directors to understand relevant developments, the Board receives regular updates at Board meetings, workshops, and site visits, along with timely relevant reading materials.

(d) Board meetings

The Board meets formally at least 6 times a year to consider a broad range of matters, including strategy, financial performance reviews, capital management and acquisitions. Details of meetings (both full Board and Committees) and attendances are set out in the Directors' Report.

(e) Independent professional advice and access to information

Each Director has the right to seek independent professional advice at the Company's expense. However, prior approval of the Chairman is required, which is not unreasonably withheld.

All Directors have unrestricted access to Company records and information and receive detailed financial and operational reports from senior management during the year to enable them to carry out their duties. Directors also liaise with senior management as required and may consult with other employees and seek additional information on request.

1. Board of Directors (continued)

(f) Conflicts of interest of Directors

The Board has guidelines dealing with disclosure of interests by Directors and participation and voting at Board meetings where any such interests are discussed. In accordance with the *Corporations Act*, any Director with a material personal interest in a matter being considered by the Board does not receive the relevant Board papers, must not be present when the matter is being considered, and may not vote on the matter.

(g) Securities trading

Under Sonic's Securities Trading Policy (available at http://www.sonichealthcare.com/about-us/corporate-governance/securities-trading-.aspx), all Sonic employees are prohibited from buying or selling or otherwise trading Sonic Healthcare securities (including shares, options, debt securities) at any time they are aware of any material price sensitive information that has not been made public, and are reminded of the laws against "insider trading". Certain "Designated Officers", including all Directors and senior executives (and specified related parties), are also prohibited from trading in periods other than in 8 week windows following the release of half year and full year results, and 2 week periods following the provision to the market at any time by Sonic of definitive guidance regarding the next annual result to be released. The Sonic Board of Directors must specifically consider and approve the opening of the "trading window" in each instance. Exceptions to this prohibition can be approved by the Chair (for other Directors) or the Managing Director (for all other employees) in circumstances of severe financial hardship (as defined in the Policy). Sonic's Chair or Managing Director may impose other periods when Designated Officers are prohibited from trading because price sensitive, non-public information may exist. All trading by Designated Officers must be notified to the Company Secretary. Prohibitions also apply to short-term trading, short selling, trading in financial instruments related to Sonic's securities, including products which limit the economic risk of unvested rights, options or share holdings in Sonic, and to trading in the securities of other entities using information obtained through employment with Sonic. Directors of Sonic Healthcare Limited are also prohibited from entering into margin lending or other secured financing arrangements in relation to Sonic securities without the prior approval of the Chair and disclosure of such arrangements to the Board. In addition, the Managing Director and Finance Director are required to obtain approval from the Chair of the Sonic Board before selling any shares. All Sonic securities dealings by Directors are promptly notified to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX).

(h) Remuneration of Non-executive Directors

The current maximum total remuneration that may be paid to all Non-executive Directors is $1,000,000 per annum, as approved by shareholders in November 2010. The total amount paid to Non-executive Directors in the 2015 financial year was $885,084. Equity-based remuneration is not issued and bonuses are not payable to Non-executive Directors. No retirement benefit schemes (other than statutory superannuation) apply to Non-executive Directors. Further details of Sonic's remuneration policies for Executive Directors and senior executives of the Company, and the relationship between such policy and the Company's performance are provided in the Directors' Report.

2. Board Committees

To assist the Board in fulfilling its duties, there are currently three Board Committees whose terms of reference and powers are determined by the Board. Details of Committee meetings and attendances are set out in the Directors' Report.

(a) Audit Committee

Members of the Audit Committee are:

Mr L.J. Panaccio (Chair)
Mr R.P. Campbell (until 7 October 2014)
Prof M.R. Compton (from 7 October 2014)
Ms K.D. Spargo

The Committee operates under a formal Charter (available at http://www.sonichealthcare.com/about-us/corporate-governance/board-committees-.aspx). The Charter requires that the Audit Committee comprises between three and six members, all of whom must be independent Directors, and that the Chair of the Committee is not to be the Chair of the Sonic Board.

The principal role of the Audit Committee is to provide the Board, investors, owners and stakeholders with confidence that the financial reports for the Company represent a true and fair view of the Company's financial condition and operational results in all material respects, and are in accordance with relevant accounting standards.

2. Board Committees (continued)

(a) Audit Committee (continued)

The responsibilities of the Audit Committee are set out in its Charter and include:

- assisting the Board in its oversight responsibilities by monitoring and advising on:
  - the integrity of the financial statements of the Company,
  - the Company's accounting policies and practices in accordance with current and emerging accounting standards,
  - the external auditors' independence and performance,
  - compliance with legal and regulatory requirements and related policies,
  - compliance with the policy framework in place from time to time, and
  - internal controls, and the overall efficiency and effectiveness of financial operations.
- providing a forum for communication between the Board, executive management and external auditors.
- providing a conduit to the Board for external advice on audit and internal controls.

The external auditors, the Managing Director and the Finance Director are invited to Audit Committee meetings at the discretion of the Committee.

In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Audit Committee receives regular reports from management and the external auditors. It also meets with the external auditors at least twice a year, and more frequently if necessary, and reviews any significant disagreements between the auditors and management, irrespective of whether they have been resolved. The external auditors have a clear line of direct communication at any time to either the Chair of the Audit Committee or the Chair of the Board.

The Audit Committee has authority, within the scope of its responsibilities, to seek any information it requires from any employee or external party.

(b) Risk Management Committee

Members of the Risk Management Committee are:

Dr E.J. Wilson (Chair)
Dr C.S. Goldschmidt
Mr L.J. Panaccio (from 29 July 2014)
Mr C.D. Wilks (until 29 July 2014)
Dr P.D. Dubois (until 29 July 2014)

The Committee operates under a formal Charter (available at http://www.sonichealthcare.com/about-us/corporate-governance/board-committees-.aspx). The Charter requires that the Committee comprises at least three members, the majority of which must be independent Directors (from 29 July 2014), and that the Chair of the Committee must be an independent Director.

The Risk Management Committee's responsibilities are set out in its Charter and include:

- assisting the Board in its oversight responsibilities by monitoring and advising on:
  - the identification and management of risks, including but not limited to:
    - business risks, including financial and strategic risks,
    - operational risks, including business continuity and practice management risks,
    - insurable risks including legal liability claims and property losses,
    - hazard risks including environmental and OH&S risks.
  - internal controls and treatments for identified risks including the Company's insurance program.
  - the Company's overall risk management program.
- providing a forum for communication between the Board, management and external risk management advisors.
- providing a conduit to the Board for external advice on risk management.

The Committee meets at least twice per year.

2. Board Committees (continued)

(c) Remuneration and Nomination Committee

Members of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee are:

Ms K.D. Spargo (Chair)
Mr R.P. Campbell
Mr L.J. Panaccio
Dr E.J. Wilson

The Remuneration and Nomination Committee operates under a formal Charter (available at http://www.sonichealthcare.com/about-us/corporate-governance/board-committees-.aspx). The Charter requires that the Remuneration and Nomination Committee comprises at least three members, all of whom are to be independent Directors.

The Remuneration and Nomination Committee's role, as set out in its Charter, is to:

- review and make recommendations to the Board on remuneration packages and policies applicable to the Managing Director, Finance Director and Non-executive Directors,
- advise the Board in relation to equity-based incentive schemes for other employees,
- ensure appropriate disclosure is provided to shareholders in relation to remuneration policies and that equity-based remuneration is within plans approved by shareholders,
- review the Board and Board Committee structures,
- advise the Board on the recruitment, appointment and removal of Directors,
- assess and promote the enhancement of competencies of Directors,
- review Board succession plans,
- make recommendations to the Board in relation to workforce and Board diversity and measurable objectives in relation to gender diversity, and monitor progress toward achievement of those objectives.

The Committee meets on an as required basis.

The Remuneration and Nomination Committee, when deemed necessary, directly obtains independent advice on the appropriateness of remuneration.

3. Approach to diversity

As a medical diagnostic company, Sonic Healthcare's business relies on the services provided to referrers and patients by thousands of Sonic staff every day. In addition, in seeking to continually improve Sonic's services and financial performance, the Company relies on the input and expertise of its Directors, managers, pathologists, radiologists, other medical practitioners and staff. It is therefore critical that Sonic's workforce brings a broad range of experiences, talents and viewpoints to the business. Diversity is valued as it assists the Company to meet its objectives, and ensures that Sonic's people at all levels of the Company reflect our customers and the communities we serve.

Sonic Healthcare strives to maintain a healthy, safe and productive environment which is free from discrimination and harassment based on race, colour, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin or disability. In addition, the Company is committed to the continued development and implementation of initiatives to remove barriers that disadvantage any person or group such that everyone is able to compete on equal terms. Within Sonic, recruitment, development, promotion and remuneration are based on merit. These principles are an integral part of Sonic's corporate culture, and are encapsulated in the Sonic Core Values and the Company's Diversity Policy (available at http://www.sonichealthcare.com/about-us/diversity-policy.aspx).

The Remuneration and Nomination Committee of the Sonic Board recommends annually measurable objectives for promoting and maintaining gender diversity and measures and reports on progress towards achievement of those objectives. The CEO has discretion with regard to the specific initiatives to be implemented by management to achieve the objectives.

3. Approach to diversity (continued)

The proportion of female employees to total employees within the Group at 30 June 2015 was:

	2015	2014
Non-executive Directors of Sonic Healthcare Limited	40%	50%
Directors of Sonic Healthcare Limited	22%	25%
Executive staff of the Group+	34%	33%
Other senior leadership positions	54%	54%
Total senior leadership positions*	50%	50%
All employees	77%	77%

+ Includes Executives to the "CEO-2" level, plus, if not already included, direct reports to the heads of each of Sonic's operating subsidiaries.
* Includes Directors, executive staff and other senior leadership positions.

The Company's current objective in relation to gender diversity is to monitor and maintain the percentage of females in senior leadership positions at a level greater than 40%. This objective was achieved in 2015.

4. Identifying and managing business risks

Sonic recognises that risk management is an integral part of good management and corporate governance practice and is fundamental to driving shareholder value across the business.

Sonic views the management of risk as a core managerial capability. Risk management is strongly promoted internally and forms part of the performance evaluation of key executives.

Sonic's material business risks are described in the operating and financial review section of the Directors' Report. Information on Sonic's impact on society and the environment can be found in the Company Conscience report.

(a) Responsibilities

The Board determines the overall risk profile of the business and is responsible for monitoring and ensuring the maintenance of adequate risk management policies, controls and reporting mechanisms.

To assist the Board in fulfilling its duties, it is aided by the Audit Committee and the Risk Management Committee. The Board has delegated to these Committees responsibility for ensuring:

- the Company's material business risks, including strategic, financial, operational, compliance, environmental and social sustainability risks, are identified,
- systems are in place to assess, manage, monitor and report on those risks, and that those systems are operating effectively,
- management compliance with Board approved policies,
- internal controls are operating effectively across the business, and
- all Group companies are in compliance with laws and regulations relating to their activities.

The Audit Committee and Risk Management Committee update the Board on all relevant matters.

Management is responsible for the identification, assessment and management of business risks. During the year, management reported on these matters, including the effectiveness of the management of Sonic's material business risks, to the Audit Committee and Risk Management Committee, who then reported these matters to the Board. The Risk Management Committee reviewed the Company's risk management framework and reported on that review to the Board.

4. Identifying and managing business risks (continued)

(b) Risk management policies, systems and processes
Sonic's activities across all of its operating entities are subject to regular review and continuous oversight by executive management and the Board Committees. The Chief Executive Officers of the individual operating companies are responsible for the identification and management of risk within their business. To assist in this, executive management has developed an effective control environment to help manage the significant risks to its operations, both locally and overseas. This environment includes the following components:

- clearly defined management responsibilities, management accountabilities and organisational structures,
- established policies and procedures that are widely disseminated to, and understood by, employees,
- regular internal review of policy compliance and the effectiveness of systems and controls,
- comprehensive training programs for staff in relation to operational practices and compliance requirements,
- strong management reporting framework for both financial and operational information,
- creation of an open culture to share risk management information and to continuously improve the effectiveness of Sonic's risk management approach,
- benchmarking across operations to share best practice and further reduce the operational risk profile,
- Sonic Core Values, a uniting code of conduct embraced by Sonic employees,
- centrally administered Group insurance program ensuring a consistent and adequate approach across all operating areas, and
- the ongoing engagement of a professional Risk Manager to co-ordinate the Company's approach to material business risk management.

Control systems and policy compliance are reviewed by Sonic's Business Assurance Program, an internal audit function. The Head of Business Assurance reports to the Audit Committee, and to the Company Secretary for administrative purposes. The Business Assurance Program liaises with, but is independent of, the external auditor, and has full access to the Audit Committee and Risk Management Committee, Sonic management and staff, and records. The Audit Committee determines the scope for the Business Assurance Program each year and monitors management's response to recommended system enhancements.

(c) Regulatory compliance
Sonic's pathology, imaging and medical centre activities are subject to Commonwealth and State law in Australia, and similar regulatory control in offshore locations. These laws cover such areas as laboratory and collection centre operations, workplace health and safety, radiation safety, privacy of information and waste management.

Sonic's network of pathology laboratories, collection centres and imaging centres are required to meet and remain compliant with set performance criteria determined by government and industry bodies.

To support this, Sonic's operating policies and procedures are overseen by internal quality assurance and workplace health and safety managers who review operational compliance.

In addition, practising pathologists and radiologists are required to be registered and licensed in accordance with Medical Board and Government regulations. The accreditation and licensing of locations, equipment and personnel is subject to regular, random audits by Government experts and medical peer groups. Sonic also undertakes internal reviews to ensure continued best practice and compliance.

Sonic's established procedures, focus on best practice, Medical Leadership model, structured staff training and the external review activities serve to mitigate operational risk and support regulatory compliance.

(d) Managing Director and Finance Director certification
Sonic has adopted a policy requiring the Managing Director and the Finance Director to provide the Board with written certification in relation to its financial reporting processes. For the 2015 financial year, the Managing Director and Finance Director made the following certifications:

- that the financial records of the Company have been properly maintained,
- that the financial statements and notes comply in all material respects with the relevant accounting standards,
- that the financial statements and notes give a true and fair view, in all material respects, of the Company's financial condition and operational results, and
- that the statements above are founded on a sound system of risk management and internal control which operates effectively in all material respects in relation to financial reporting risks.

5. Ethical standards

The Company has a Code of Ethics policy that outlines the standards required so that the Directors and management conduct themselves with the highest ethical standards. All employees of the Company and its controlled entities are informed of the Code. The Directors regularly review this Code to ensure it reflects best practice in corporate governance. The Code is further supported by the Sonic Core Values.

6. Continuous disclosure

The Company Secretary has been nominated as the person responsible for communications with the ASX. This role includes responsibility for ensuring compliance with the continuous disclosure requirements in the ASX listing rules and overseeing and co-ordinating information disclosure to the ASX, analysts, brokers, shareholders, the media and the public.

Sonic has formalised its policies and procedures on information disclosure in a Policy on Continuous Disclosure (available at http://www.sonichealthcare.com/about-us/corporate-governance/continuous-disclosure-.aspx). The Policy focuses on continuous disclosure of any information concerning the Company and its controlled entities that a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price of the Company's securities, and sets out management's responsibilities and reporting procedures in this regard.

All information disclosed to the ASX is then immediately posted on the Company's website. Presentations to analysts on aspects of the Company's operations are released to the ASX and posted on the Company's website.

The Company's investor relations program facilitates effective two-way communication with investors and analysts. All investor relations discussions are conducted or monitored by the Managing Director, Finance Director or Company Secretary and are limited to discussion of non-price sensitive information and material previously announced on the ASX platform.

7. The role of shareholders

The Board aims to provide access and communicate openly with shareholders and to ensure that shareholders are informed of all major developments affecting the Group's state of affairs. Information is communicated to shareholders as follows:

- via the Company's website (available at http://www.sonichealthcare.com), which includes electronic and other contact details for Key Contacts and a general contact email address;
- the Annual Report is available to all shareholders on the Company's website and is distributed to those shareholders who elect to receive it. The Board ensures that the Annual Report includes relevant information about the operations of the Group during the year, changes in the state of affairs of the Group and details of likely future developments, in addition to the other disclosures required by law; and
- proposed major changes in the Group which may impact on share ownership rights are submitted to a vote of shareholders.

To further facilitate communication with shareholders, the Company has established electronic shareholder communication processes via its Share Registry. Shareholders are able to access online Annual Reports, notices of meetings, proxy forms and voting, and receive electronic statements (e.g. holding statements) by email.

Where possible the Company provides advance notice of significant group briefings, including for the half and full year results announcements, by publishing details on the Company website and extending open invitations. Telephone dial-in details are generally made available. Records are kept of group and one-on-one briefings with investors and analysts.

The Board encourages full participation of shareholders at the AGM to ensure a high level of accountability and identification with the Group's strategy and goals. AGMs are held at readily accessible locations and advance notice is provided on the Investor Calendar page of the Company's website. Ample opportunity is provided for shareholders to question the Board and the external auditor at the AGM. Important issues are presented to the shareholders as single resolutions.

The shareholders are responsible for voting on the appointment of Directors. The Company ensures that the relevant Notice of Meeting contains all material information in its possession relevant to a decision on whether to elect a Director.

8. External auditors

The Company's policy is to appoint external auditors who clearly demonstrate quality and independence. The performance of the external auditor is reviewed annually. Sonic requires its external auditor to attend the AGM and be available to answer shareholder questions about the conduct of the audit and the auditor's report. It is the policy of the external auditors to provide an annual declaration of their independence to the Audit Committee.

9. Performance evaluation of the Board, its Committees and Directors, and key executive officers

(a) The Board and its Committees

The Board carries out an annual evaluation of its own performance in meeting its key responsibilities in accordance with the Board Charter, by undertaking the following activities:

- the Chairman discusses with each Director their individual performance and ideas for improvement based on surveys completed by each Director assessing their own and each other Directors' performance, and
- the Board as a whole discusses and analyses its own performance, including suggestions for change or improvement and assessment of the extent to which the Board has discharged its responsibilities as set out in the Board Charter.

The performance review covers matters such as contribution to strategy development, interaction with management, operation and conduct of meetings, and specific performance objectives for the year ahead.

The Board also obtains feedback on its performance and operations from key people such as the external auditors.

Each Committee of the Board is required to undertake an annual performance evaluation and report the results of this review to the Board.

Performance evaluation results are discussed by the Board, and initiatives are undertaken, where appropriate, to strengthen the effectiveness of the Board's operation and that of its Committees. The Board periodically reviews the skills, experience and expertise of its Directors and its practices and procedures for both the present and future needs of the Company.

Reviews of the performance of the Board, its Committees, and individual Directors were conducted during the year.

(b) The Managing Director and Finance Director

The performances of the Managing Director and Finance Director are formally reviewed by the Board annually, including during the 2015 year. The performance criteria include:

- economic results of the Group,
- fulfilment of objectives and duties,
- personnel and resource management,
- promotion of and adherence to Sonic Core Values, Foundation Principles, Federation model and the concept of Medical Leadership,
- corporate governance and compliance,
- risk management,
- external standing and reputation (including stakeholder management, brand and quality), and
- additionally for the Finance Director, financial leadership and innovation.

Performance evaluation results are considered by the Remuneration and Nomination Committee in determining the level and structure of remuneration for the Managing Director and Finance Director.

(c) Key management personnel

The Managing Director evaluates key management personnel at least annually (including during the 2015 year) with qualitative and quantitative measures against agreed business and personal objectives. These business and personal objectives are consistent with those used in the performance reviews for the Managing Director and Finance Director.

Key management personnel receive letters of appointment with terms of employment governed by applicable employment laws.

Sonic Healthcare Limited
ABN **24 004 196 909**
Financial Report - 30 June 2015

Contents

Income Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Total revenue	3	**4,200,525**	3,913,475
Labour and related costs		**(1,951,456)**	(1,787,547)
Consumables used		**(650,956)**	(596,973)
Operating lease rental expense	4	**(260,455)**	(225,052)
Depreciation and amortisation of physical assets	4	**(135,971)**	(124,150)
Transportation		**(111,785)**	(106,266)
Utilities		**(101,353)**	(90,272)
Repairs and maintenance		**(99,630)**	(88,353)
Borrowing costs expense	4	**(55,928)**	(60,710)
Amortisation of intangibles	4	**(43,231)**	(36,439)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		**(326,445)**	(282,747)
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax expense		**463,315**	514,966
Income tax expense	6	**(109,278)**	(126,106)
Profit from ordinary activities after income tax expense		**354,037**	388,860
Net (profit) attributable to minority interests		**(6,339)**	(3,876)
Profit attributable to members of Sonic Healthcare Limited	27(b)	**347,698**	384,984

	Notes	**Cents**	Cents
Basic earnings per share	36	**86.6**	96.2
Diluted earnings per share	36	**86.0**	95.5

The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Profit from ordinary activities after income tax expense		**354,037**	388,860
Other comprehensive income			
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss			
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	27(a)	**114,754**	24,088
Cash flow hedges	27(a)	**164**	1,550
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss			
Actuarial (losses) on retirement benefit obligations	24(e)	**(8,803)**	(2,561)
Other comprehensive income for the period, net of tax		**106,115**	23,077
Total comprehensive income for the period		**460,152**	411,937
Total comprehensive income attributable to:			
Members of Sonic Healthcare Limited		**453,703**	407,538
Minority interests		**6,449**	4,399
		460,152	411,937

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2015

	Notes	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	37(a)	**249,393**	232,137
Receivables	7	**648,716**	575,999
Inventories	8	**76,066**	65,153
Other	9	**45,527**	39,730
Total current assets		**1,019,702**	913,019
Non-current assets			
Receivables	10	**17,710**	12,235
Other financial assets	11	**62,384**	67,865
Property, plant and equipment	12	**791,119**	691,877
Intangible assets	13	**4,427,381**	4,084,964
Deferred tax assets	14	**30,318**	27,622
Other	15	**91**	24
Total non-current assets		**5,329,003**	4,884,587
Total assets		**6,348,705**	5,797,606
Current liabilities			
Payables	16	**402,468**	350,071
Interest bearing liabilities	17	**1,397**	450,388
Current tax liabilities	18	**11,546**	44,093
Provisions	19	**168,954**	158,053
Other financial liabilities	20	**-**	235
Other	21	**3,941**	18,354
Total current liabilities		**588,306**	1,021,194
Non-current liabilities			
Interest bearing liabilities	22	**2,223,985**	1,520,539
Deferred tax liabilities	23	**112,464**	89,991
Provisions	24	**63,576**	47,582
Other	25	**34,376**	9,306
Total non-current liabilities		**2,434,401**	1,667,418
Total liabilities		**3,022,707**	2,688,612
Net assets		**3,325,998**	3,108,994
Equity			
Parent Company interest			
Contributed equity	26	**2,561,817**	2,538,517
Reserves	27(a)	**(13,634)**	(119,941)
Retained earnings	27(b)	**725,945**	664,067
Total Parent Company interest		**3,274,128**	3,082,643
Minority interests		**51,870**	26,351
Total equity		**3,325,998**	3,108,994

The above Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2015

	Share capital $'000	Reserves $'000	Retained earnings $'000	Total $'000	Minority interests $'000	Total $'000
Balance at 1 July 2013	2,468,102	(111,131)	537,913	2,894,884	23,217	2,918,101
Profit for period	-	-	384,984	384,984	3,876	388,860
Other comprehensive income for the period	-	25,115	(2,561)	22,554	523	23,077
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	25,115	382,423	407,538	4,399	411,937
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:						
Dividends paid	-	-	(256,269)	(256,269)	-	(256,269)
Shares issued	55,255	(18,360)	-	36,895	-	36,895
Transfers to share capital	15,160	(15,160)	-	-	-	-
Share based payments	-	2,559	-	2,559	-	2,559
Minority interests on acquisition of subsidiary	-	(2,904)	-	(2,904)	2,953	49
Acquisition/disposal of minority interests	-	(60)	-	(60)	(540)	(600)
Dividends paid to minority interests	-	-	-	-	(3,678)	(3,678)
Balance at 30 June 2014	2,538,517	(119,941)	664,067	3,082,643	26,351	3,108,994
Balance at 1 July 2014	2,538,517	(119,941)	664,067	3,082,643	26,351	**3,108,994**
Profit for period	-	-	347,698	347,698	6,339	**354,037**
Other comprehensive income for the period	-	114,808	(8,803)	106,005	110	**106,115**
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	114,808	338,895	453,703	6,449	**460,152**
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:						
Dividends paid	-	-	(277,017)	(277,017)	-	**(277,017)**
Shares issued	21,573	(8,631)	-	12,942	-	**12,942**
Transfers to share capital	1,800	(1,800)	-	-	-	**-**
Share based payments	-	2,039	-	2,039	-	**2,039**
Acquisition of treasury shares	(100)	-	-	(100)	-	**(100)**
Allocation of treasury shares	27	-	-	27	-	**27**
Minority interests on formation of subsidiary	-	-	-	-	23,491	**23,491**
Acquisition of minority interests	-	(109)	-	(109)	-	**(109)**
Dividends paid to minority interests	-	-	-	-	(4,421)	**(4,421)**
Balance at 30 June 2015	**2,561,817**	**(13,634)**	**725,945**	**3,274,128**	**51,870**	**3,325,998**

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Cash Flow Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers (inclusive of goods and services tax)		**4,180,442**	3,941,176
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of goods and services tax)		**(3,497,816)**	(3,222,663)
Gross operating cash flow		**682,626**	718,513
Interest received		**3,796**	3,245
Borrowing costs		**(48,896)**	(57,403)
Income taxes paid		**(125,442)**	(107,997)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	37(b)	**512,084**	556,358
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payment for purchase of controlled entities, net of cash acquired	29(b)	**(46,115)**	(134,349)
Payments for property, plant and equipment	12	**(197,478)**	(154,452)
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets		**22,724**	24,721
Payments for investments		**(2,836)**	(4,398)
Payments for intangibles		**(66,688)**	(67,593)
Repayment of loans by other entities		**9,017**	6,433
Loans to other entities		**(7,613)**	(9,732)
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities		**(288,989)**	(339,370)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds from issues of shares and other equity securities (net of transaction costs and related taxes)		**12,869**	36,895
Proceeds from borrowings		**452,394**	797,530
Repayment of borrowings		**(411,167)**	(784,720)
Transaction with non-controlling interest		**7,973**	-
Dividends paid to Company's shareholders		**(277,017)**	(256,269)
Dividends paid to minority interests in subsidiaries		**(4,399)**	(3,716)
Net cash (outflow) from financing activities		**(219,347)**	(210,280)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		**3,748**	6,708
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		**232,137**	219,729
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents		**13,508**	5,700
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	37(a)	**249,393**	232,137
Financing arrangements	17,22		
Non-cash financing and investing activities	37(c)		

The above Cash Flow Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Statements

30 June 2015

Contents

Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the Financial Report are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the periods presented, unless otherwise stated.

The Financial Report includes financial statements for the Consolidated Group ("the Group") consisting of Sonic Healthcare Limited ("Parent Company" or "Company") and its subsidiaries. The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Directors on 24 September 2015.

(a) Basis of preparation

This general purpose Financial Report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the *Corporations Act 2001*. The Company is a for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

Compliance with IFRS

The consolidated financial statements of the Group also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. The Parent Company financial information included in Note 39 also complies with IFRS.

Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the revaluation of financial assets and liabilities (including derivative instruments) at fair value through profit or loss and plan assets of retirement benefit obligations measured at fair value.

Comparatives may be restated to enhance comparability with the current year.

(b) Principles of consolidation

The Consolidated Group financial statements incorporate the assets and liabilities of all subsidiaries controlled by Sonic Healthcare Limited as at 30 June 2015 and the results of all subsidiaries for the year then ended. Sonic Healthcare Limited and its controlled entities together are referred to in this Financial Report as the Group or the Consolidated Group.

Subsidiaries are all those entities (including special purpose entities) over which the Group has control. The Group controls an entity when the Group is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power to direct the activities of the entity.

Intercompany transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between Group companies are eliminated. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of the impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of subsidiaries have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the Group.

Minority interests in the results and equity of controlled entities are shown separately in the Income Statement, Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Balance Sheet respectively.

Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Group. They are de-consolidated from the date that control ceases.

The acquisition method of accounting is used to account for the acquisition of subsidiaries by the Group (refer to Note 1(e)).

Sonic Healthcare Limited Employee Share Trust ("SHEST")

The Group has formed a trust to obtain and hold shares for the purpose of providing shares under selected Group equity plans. This trust is consolidated, as the substance of the relationship is that the trust is controlled by the Group. Shares held by SHEST are disclosed as treasury shares and deducted from contributed equity.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(b) Principles of consolidation (continued)

Changes in ownership interests
The Group treats transactions with minority interests that do not result in a loss of control as transactions with equity owners of the Group. A change in ownership interest results in an adjustment between the carrying amounts of the controlling and minority interests to reflect their relative interests in the subsidiary. Any difference between the amount of the adjustment to minority interests and any consideration paid or received is recognised in a separate reserve within equity.

When the Group ceases to have control, joint control or significant influence, any retained interest in the entity is remeasured to its fair value with the change in carrying amount recognised in profit or loss. The fair value is the initial carrying amount for the purposes of subsequently accounting for the retained interest as an associate, jointly controlled entity or financial asset. In addition, any amounts previously recognised in other comprehensive income in respect of that entity are accounted for as if the Group had directly disposed of the related assets or liabilities. This may mean that amounts previously recognised in other comprehensive income are reclassified to profit or loss.

If the ownership interest in a jointly-controlled entity or an associate is reduced but joint control or significant influence is retained, only a proportionate share of the amounts previously recognised in other comprehensive income are reclassified to profit or loss where appropriate.

(c) Income tax

The income tax expense or benefit for the period is the tax payable or receivable on the current period's taxable income based on the income tax rate for each jurisdiction adjusted by changes in deferred tax assets and liabilities attributable to temporary differences between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements, and to unused tax losses.

The current income tax charge is calculated on the basis of the tax laws enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period in the countries where the Company's subsidiaries operate and generate taxable income. Management periodically evaluates positions taken in tax returns with respect to situations in which applicable tax regulation is subject to interpretation. It establishes provisions where appropriate on the basis of amounts expected to be paid to the tax authorities.

Deferred income tax is provided in full, using the liability method, on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the consolidated financial statements. However, deferred tax liabilities are not recognised if they arise from the initial recognition of goodwill. Deferred income tax is also not accounted for if it arises from initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction other than a business combination that at the time of the transaction affects neither accounting nor taxable profit or loss. Deferred income tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantially enacted by the end of the reporting period and are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realised or the deferred income tax liability is settled.

Deferred tax assets are recognised for deductible temporary differences and unused tax losses only if it is probable that future taxable amounts will be available to utilise those temporary differences and losses.

Deferred tax liabilities and assets are not recognised for temporary differences between the carrying amount and tax bases of investments in controlled entities where the Group is able to control the timing of the reversal of the temporary differences and it is probable that the differences will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset when there is a legally enforceable right to offset current tax assets and liabilities and when the deferred tax balances relate to the same taxation authority. Current tax assets and tax liabilities are offset where the entity has a legally enforceable right to offset and intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Sonic Healthcare Limited and its wholly-owned Australian controlled entities have implemented the Australian tax consolidation legislation. As a consequence, these entities are taxed as a single entity and the deferred tax assets and liabilities of these entities are offset in the consolidated financial statements.

Current and deferred tax is recognised in profit or loss, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. In this case, the tax is also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, respectively.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(c) Income tax (continued)

Investment allowances and similar tax incentives
Companies within the Group may be entitled to claim special tax deductions for investments in qualifying assets or in relation to qualifying expenditure (e.g. the Research and Development Tax Incentive regime in Australia or other investment allowances). The Group accounts for such allowances as tax credits, which means that the allowance reduces income tax payable and current tax expense.

(d) Foreign currency translation

(i) Functional and presentation currency
Items included in the financial statements of each entity are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates ('the functional currency'). The Group's financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is Sonic Healthcare Limited's functional and presentation currency.

(ii) Transactions
Foreign currency transactions are initially translated into the functional currency using the rates of exchange prevailing at the date of the transaction. At the balance sheet date amounts payable and receivable in foreign currencies are translated to Australian currency at rates of exchange current at that date. Resulting foreign exchange differences are recognised in the Income Statement except where they are deferred in equity as cash flow hedges and qualifying net investment hedges or are attributable to part of the net investment in a foreign operation.

(iii) Foreign controlled entities
The assets and liabilities of foreign controlled entities are translated into Australian currency at rates of exchange current at the balance sheet date, while their income and expenses are translated at the average of rates prevailing during the year. Exchange differences arising on translation are taken to the foreign currency translation reserve.

Differences on foreign currency borrowings that provide a hedge against a net investment in a foreign entity are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the foreign currency translation reserve. When a foreign operation is sold, a proportionate share of such exchange difference is reclassified to the Income Statement, as part of the gain or loss on sale where applicable.

(e) Business combinations
The acquisition method of accounting is used to account for all business combinations regardless of whether equity instruments or other assets are acquired. The consideration transferred for the acquisition of a subsidiary comprises the fair values of the assets transferred, the liabilities incurred and the equity interests issued by the Group. The consideration transferred also includes the fair value of any contingent consideration arrangement and the fair value of any pre-existing equity interest in the subsidiary. Acquisition-related costs are expensed as incurred. On an acquisition-by-acquisition basis, the Group recognises any minority interest in the acquiree either at fair value or at the minority interest's proportionate share of the acquiree's net identifiable assets.

Where settlement of any part of cash consideration is deferred, the amounts payable in the future are discounted to their present value as at the date of the acquisition. The discount rate used is the incremental borrowing rate, being the rate at which a similar borrowing could be obtained from an independent financier under comparable terms and conditions.

Contingent consideration is classified either as equity or a financial liability. Amounts classified as a financial liability are subsequently remeasured to fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss.

Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in an acquisition are measured initially at their fair values at the acquisition dates, irrespective of the extent of any minority interest. Goodwill is brought to account on the basis described in Note 1(m)(i).

The excess of the consideration transferred, the amount of any minority interest in the acquiree and the acquisition-date fair value of any previous equity interest in the acquiree over the fair value of the Group's share of the net identifiable assets acquired is recorded as goodwill. If those amounts are less than the fair value of the net identifiable assets of the subsidiary acquired and the measurement of all amounts has been reviewed, the difference is recognised directly in profit or loss as a bargain purchase.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(f) Revenue recognition
Revenue is measured at fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Amounts disclosed as revenue are net of returns, trade allowances, rebates and amounts collected on behalf of third parties. The Group recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and specific criteria have been met for each of the Group's activities as described below. The Group bases its estimates on historical results, taking into consideration the type of customer, the type of transaction and the specifics of each arrangement. Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

(i) Medical services
Medical services revenue is recognised on a completed test or service basis.

(ii) Other services
Revenue from other services is recognised when the service has been provided.

(iii) Rental income
Rental income is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

(iv) Government grants
Government grants are recognised at their fair value where there is reasonable assurance that these grants will be received and the Group has complied with all attached conditions. At the time of income recognition, there are no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies attached to these grants. Government grants related to income are presented as a credit in the Income Statement and are recognised as income on a systematic and rational basis over the periods necessary to match them with the related costs.

(v) Interest income
Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

(vi) Dividends
Dividends are recognised as revenue when the right to receive payment is established. This applies even if they are paid out of pre-acquisition profits. However, the investment may need to be tested for impairment as a consequence.

(g) Receivables
All trade debtors are initially recognised at their fair value being the amounts receivable and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Trade debtors are generally required to be settled within 30 days. They are presented as current assets unless collection is not expected for more than 12 months after the reporting date.

Collectability of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off in the period in which they are identified. A provision for impairment of receivables is raised during the year where there is objective evidence that the Group will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables and adjusted following a review of all outstanding amounts at the balance sheet date.

(h) Inventories
Inventories, comprising consumable stores stock, are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned to individual items of inventory on the first in, first out (FIFO) basis.

(i) Impairment of assets
Goodwill and intangible assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to amortisation and are tested annually for impairment, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they might be impaired. Other assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows which are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets other than goodwill that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

In assessing the value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(j) Investments and other financial assets

The Group classifies its financial assets in the following categories: financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, loans and receivables, held to maturity investments, and available-for-sale financial assets. The classification depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition and re-evaluates this designation at each reporting date.

With the exception of loans and receivables and held-to-maturity investments which are measured at amortised cost (refer below), fair value is the measurement basis. Changes in fair value are either taken to the Income Statement or an equity reserve depending upon the classification of the investment.

(i) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term. The assets in this category are classified as current assets if they are expected to be settled within 12 months.

(ii) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They are included in current assets, except for those with maturities greater than 12 months after the balance sheet date which are classified as non-current assets. Loans and receivables are included in receivables in the Balance Sheet.

(iii) Held-to-maturity investments

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that management has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity. If the Group were to sell other than an insignificant amount of held-to-maturity financial assets, the whole category would be tainted and re-classified as available-for-sale. Held-to-maturity financial assets are included in non-current assets, except for those with maturities less than 12 months from the reporting date, which are classified as current assets.

(iv) Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets are non-derivatives that are either designated in this category or not classified in any of the other categories. They are included in non-current assets unless management intends to dispose of the investment within 12 months of the balance sheet date. Financial assets are designated as available-for-sale if they do not have fixed maturities and fixed or determinable payments and management intends to hold them for the medium or long term.

(v) Recognition and derecognition

Purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on trade-date – the date on which the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the Group has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership. Financial assets are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs associated with the investment for all financial assets not carried at fair value through profit or loss. Financial assets carried at fair value through profit or loss are initially recognised at fair value and transaction costs are expensed in the Income Statement.

(vi) Subsequent measurement

Loans and receivables and held-to-maturity investments are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Available-for-sale financial assets and financial assets at fair value through profit and loss are subsequently carried at fair value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of the 'financial assets at fair value through profit or loss' category are included in the Income Statement in the period in which they arise.

The fair values of any quoted investments accounted at 'fair value through profit and loss' are based on current market prices. If the market for a financial asset is not active (and for unlisted securities), the Group establishes fair value by using valuation techniques. These include reference to the fair values of recent arm's length transactions, involving the same instruments or other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analysis, and appropriate pricing models.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(j) Investments and other financial assets (continued)

(vii) Impairment
The Group assesses at each balance sheet date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. If there is objective evidence of impairment for any of the Group's financial assets carried at amortised cost, the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, excluding future credit losses that have not been incurred. The cash flows are discounted at the financial asset's original effective interest rate. The loss is recognised in the Income Statement. If there is objective evidence of impairment for available-for-sale financial assets, the cumulative loss - measured as the difference between the acquisition cost and the current fair value, less any impairment loss on that financial asset previously recognised in the Income Statement - is removed from equity and recognised in the Income Statement.

(k) Property, plant and equipment
Property, plant and equipment is stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment in value.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate the net cost of each item of property, plant and equipment (excluding land), net of their residual values over their estimated useful lives to the Group. Land is not depreciated. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis for all assets, with annual reassessments for major items. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Buildings and improvements	40 years
Plant and equipment	3 - 15 years

The cost of improvements to or on leasehold properties is amortised over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the improvement to the Group, whichever is the shorter.

The carrying values of property, plant and equipment are reviewed for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value of the asset is greater than its estimated recoverable amount (Note 1(i)). An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected to arise from the continued use of the asset. Any gain or loss arising on derecognition of the asset (calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the item) is included in the Income Statement in the period the item is derecognised.

(l) Leases
Finance leases, which transfer to the Group substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the leased item, are capitalised at the inception of the lease at the fair value of the leased asset or, if lower, at the present value of the minimum lease payments.

Lease payments are apportioned between the finance charges and reduction of the lease liability so as to achieve a constant rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Finance costs are charged to the Income Statement.

Capitalised leased assets are depreciated over the shorter of the estimated useful life of the asset or the lease term if there is no reasonable certainty that the Group will obtain ownership at the end of the lease term.

Leases in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset are not transferred to the Group as lessee are classified as operating leases. Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense in the Income Statement on a straight-line basis over the lease term (net of any incentives received from the lessor).

(m) Intangible assets

(i) Goodwill
Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of the business combination over the acquirer's interest in the net fair value of identifiable assets and liabilities acquired at the date of acquisition. Following initial recognition, goodwill is measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill acquired in business combinations is not amortised. Instead, goodwill is tested for impairment annually, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may be impaired.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(m) Intangible assets (continued)

(i) Goodwill (continued)
Any goodwill acquired is allocated to each of the cash-generating units ("CGUs") expected to benefit from the combination's synergies. The goodwill allocated to the CGUs for the purpose of assessing impairment is identified according to business segment (pathology and imaging) and country of operation (Australia, New Zealand, UK, USA, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Ireland). Impairment is determined by assessing the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the goodwill relates. Where the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised.

Gains and losses on the disposal of an entity include the carrying amount of goodwill relating to that entity.

(ii) Intangible assets acquired from a business combination
Intangible assets acquired from a business combination are capitalised at fair value as at the date of acquisition. Following initial recognition, the cost model is applied to the class of intangible assets.

The useful lives of these intangible assets are assessed to be either finite or indefinite.

Where amortisation is charged on assets with finite lives, this expense is taken to the Income Statement.

Intangible assets are tested for impairment where an indicator of impairment exists, and in the case of indefinite life intangibles annually, either individually or at the cash generating unit level. Useful lives are also examined on an annual basis and adjustments, where applicable, are made on a prospective basis.

Included in intangibles is the value of certain brand names acquired as part of the purchase of certain laboratory businesses and controlled entities. No deferred tax liabilities relating to these brand names have been recognised.

The brand names have been assessed as having an indefinite useful life after consideration of the following factors:

- the length of time during which the brand name has been in use,
- the stability of the healthcare industry,
- the market perception and recognition of the brands which have consistently facilitated the retention and growth of revenue in both the local and national market places,
- active promotion of the brands in the marketplace,
- brand names are a registered legal trademark of the business. The registration of brands is renewable at minimal cost and minimal difficulty.

(iii) Software development
Expenditure on software development is capitalised when it is probable that the project will, after considering its commercial and technical feasibility, be completed and generate future economic benefits and the costs can be measured reliably. The expenditure capitalised comprises all directly attributable costs. Capitalised software development costs are recorded as finite life intangible assets and amortised from the point at which the asset is ready for use on a straight-line basis over its estimated useful life of 10 years. Capitalised development expenditure is stated at cost less accumulated amortisation. The carrying value is reviewed for impairment annually, or more frequently, if an indicator of impairment arises.

Gains or losses arising from the derecognition of an intangible asset are measured as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and are recognised in the Income Statement when the asset is derecognised.

Intangible assets (other than software development costs) created within the business are not capitalised and expenditure is charged against profits in the period in which the expenditure is incurred.

(n) Trade and other payables
These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Group prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition. Trade and other payables are presented as current liabilities unless payment is not due within 12 months from reporting date. They are recognised initially at their fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(o) Interest bearing liabilities

All loans and borrowings are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs, except where they are subsequently measured at fair value, in which case transaction costs are expensed as incurred. Thereafter interest bearing loans and borrowings are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method except for liabilities at fair value which are held at fair value through profit or loss. Interest is accrued over the period it becomes due and is recorded as part of other creditors. Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities measured at amortised cost are capitalised and amortised on a straight-line basis over the term of the facility.

Borrowings are removed from the Balance Sheet when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expired. The difference between the carrying amount of a financial liability that has been extinguished or transferred to another party and the consideration paid, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, is recognised in other income or other expenses.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the Group has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date.

(p) Derivative financial instruments

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured to their fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are either taken to the Income Statement or an equity reserve (refer below). The method of recognising the resulting gain or loss depends on whether the derivative is designated as a hedging instrument, and if so, the nature of the item being hedged. The Group designates certain derivatives as either:

- hedges of the fair value of recognised assets or liabilities or a firm commitment (fair value hedges);
- hedges of the cash flows of recognised assets and liabilities and highly probable forecast transactions (cash flow hedges), or;
- hedges of a net investment in a foreign operation (net investment hedges).

The Group documents at the inception of the hedging transaction the relationship between hedging instruments and hedged items, as well as its risk management objective and strategy for undertaking various hedge transactions. The Group also documents its assessment, both at hedge inception and on an ongoing basis, of whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions have been and will continue to be highly effective in offsetting changes in fair values or cash flows of hedged items.

The fair values of various derivative financial instruments used for hedging purposes are disclosed in Note 38. Movements in the hedging reserve in shareholders' equity are shown in Note 27.

(i) Fair value hedge

Changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as fair value hedges are recorded in the Income Statement, together with any changes in the fair value of the hedged asset or liability that are attributable to the hedged risk. The gain or loss relating to the effective portion of interest rate swaps hedging fixed rate borrowings is recognised in the Income Statement within borrowing costs expense, together with changes in the fair value of the hedged fixed rate borrowings attributable to interest rate risk. The gain or loss relating to the ineffective portion is recognised in the Income Statement within other income or other expenses.

If the hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, the adjustment to the carrying amount of a hedged item for which the effective interest method is used is amortised to profit or loss over the period to maturity using a recalculated effective interest rate.

(ii) Cash flow hedge

The effective portion of changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as cash flow hedges is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in reserves in equity. The gain or loss relating to the ineffective portion is recognised immediately in the Income Statement within other income or other expenses.

Amounts accumulated in equity are recycled to the Income Statement in the periods when the hedged item will affect profit or loss. The gain or loss relating to the effective portion of interest rate swaps hedging variable rate borrowings is recognised in the Income Statement within borrowing costs expense.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(p) Derivative financial instruments (continued)

(ii) Cash flow hedge (continued)
When a hedging instrument expires or is sold or terminated, or when a hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, any cumulative gain or loss existing in equity at that time remains in equity and is recognised when the forecast transaction is ultimately recognised in the Income Statement. When a forecast transaction is no longer expected to occur, the cumulative gain or loss that was reported in equity is immediately transferred to the Income Statement.

The fair value of the Group's cash flow hedges are determined by external advisors using the present value of estimated future cash flows.

(iii) Net investment hedges
Hedges of net investments in foreign operations are accounted for similarly to cash flow hedges.

Any gain or loss on the hedging instrument relating to the effective portion of the hedge is recognised in equity. The gain or loss relating to the ineffective portion of the hedge is recognised immediately in the Income Statement within other income or other expenses.

Gains and losses accumulated in equity are included in the Income Statement when the foreign operation is partially disposed of or sold.

(iv) Derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting
For derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting, any gains or losses arising from changes in fair value are taken directly to the Income Statement and are included in other income or other expenses.

(q) Employee benefits

(i) Wages and salaries, annual leave
Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave are recognised and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

(ii) Long service leave
The liability for long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date is recognised in the current provision for employee benefits and is measured in accordance with (i) above. The liability for long service leave expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date is recognised in the non-current provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

(iii) Retirement benefit obligations
Certain employees of the Group are entitled to benefits from defined contribution superannuation plans on retirement, disability or death. The defined contribution plans receive fixed contributions from Group companies and the Group's legal or constructive obligation is limited to these contributions.

Contributions to the defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

The Group also has defined benefit superannuation plans in relation to certain non-Australian employees, which provide defined lump sum benefits based on years of service and final average salary.

A liability or asset in respect of defined benefit plans is recognised in the Balance Sheet, and is measured as the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the reporting date less the fair value of the superannuation fund's assets at that date. The present value of the defined benefit obligation is based on expected future payments which arise from membership of the fund to the reporting date, calculated annually by independent actuaries using the projected unit credit method.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(q) Employee benefits (continued)

(iii) Retirement benefit obligations (continued)
Consideration is given to expected future wages and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows. In countries where there is a deep market in high quality corporate bonds, the market rates on those bonds are used rather than government bonds. Actuarial gains and losses arising from experience adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions are recognised in the period in which they occur, outside profit or loss, directly in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Past service costs are recognised immediately in the Income Statement.

(iv) Profit sharing and bonus plans
A liability for employee benefits in the form of profit sharing and bonus plans is recognised in other creditors when there is no realistic alternative but to settle the liability and at least one of the following conditions is met:

- there are formal terms in the plan for determining the amount of the benefit, or
- the amounts to be paid are determined before the time of completion of the Financial Report, or
- past practice gives clear evidence of the amount of the obligation.

Liabilities for profit sharing and bonus plans are expected to be settled within 12 months and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when they are settled.

(v) Employee benefit on-costs
Employee benefit on-costs, including payroll tax, are recognised and included in employee benefit liabilities and costs when the employee benefits to which they relate are recognised as liabilities.

(vi) Equity-based compensation benefits
Equity-based compensation benefits are provided to employees under various plans. Information relating to these plans is set out in Note 34.

The fair value of equity remuneration granted under the various employee plans is recognised as an expense with a corresponding increase in equity. The fair value is measured at grant date and recognised over the period during which the employees become unconditionally entitled to the shares and options ("the vesting period"). The fair value at grant date is determined using a pricing model consistent with the Black Scholes methodology that takes into account the exercise price, the term of the option, the impact of dilution, the non-tradeable nature of the option, the share price at grant date and expected price volatility of the underlying share, the expected dividend yield and the risk-free interest rate for the term of the arrangement.

The fair value of the options and shares granted is adjusted to reflect market vesting conditions (using a Monte Carlo simulation) but excludes the impact of any non-market vesting conditions. Non-market vesting conditions are included in assumptions about the number of shares and options that are expected to vest. At each balance sheet date, the entity revises its estimate of the number of shares and options that are expected to vest. The employee benefit expense recognised each period takes into account the most recent estimate.

No expense is recognised for shares and options that do not ultimately vest due to a failure to meet a non-market vesting condition.

Upon the exercise of options, the balance of the share based payments reserve relating to those options is transferred to share capital.

The dilutive effect, if any, of outstanding shares and options is reflected as additional share dilution in the calculation of diluted earnings per share.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(q) Employee benefits (continued)

(vi) Equity-based compensation benefits (continued)
The Parent Company issues options to employees of subsidiary companies as part of the Group's remuneration strategy. When options are exercised, the subsidiary company reimburses the Parent Company for the excess of the market price at the time of exercise over the exercise price. These amounts are credited to contributed equity in the Parent Company's accounts, and eliminated on consolidation.

(vii) Termination benefits
Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before the normal retirement date, or when an employee accepts voluntary redundancy in exchange for these benefits. The Group recognises termination benefits when it is demonstrably committed to either terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy. Benefits falling due more than 12 months after balance sheet date are discounted to present value.

(r) Borrowing costs
Borrowing costs include:

- interest on bank overdrafts, short term and long term borrowings, including amounts paid or received on interest rate swaps,
- amortisation of discounts or premiums relating to borrowings,
- amortisation of ancillary costs incurred in connection with the arrangement of borrowings, and
- finance lease charges.

Borrowing costs are expensed as incurred unless they relate to qualifying assets. Qualifying assets are assets that necessarily take a substantial period of time to get ready for their intended use. In these circumstances, borrowing costs are capitalised to the cost of the assets using the weighted average interest rate applicable to the entity's outstanding borrowings during the year.

(s) Contributed equity
Ordinary shares are classified as equity. Incremental costs directly attributable to the issue of new shares or options are shown in equity as a deduction, net of tax, from the proceeds.

(t) Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents includes cash at bank and in hand, and deposits at call with financial institutions which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

For the purposes of the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and cash equivalents as defined above, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

(u) Earnings per share

(i) Basic earnings per share
Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing net profit after income tax attributable to members of the Parent Company by the weighted average number of ordinary shares on issue during the financial year excluding treasury shares.

(ii) Diluted earnings per share
Diluted earnings per share adjusts the figures used in the determination of basic earnings per share by taking into account the weighted average number of shares assumed to have been issued for no consideration in relation to dilutive potential ordinary shares.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(v) Segment information
Operating segments are reported in a manner consistent with the internal reporting provided to the chief operating decision maker. The chief operating decision makers who are responsible for allocating resources and assessing performance of the operating segments have been identified as the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Directors.

Segment revenues, expenses and results include transfers between segments. Such transfers are priced on an "arms-length" basis and are eliminated on consolidation.

(w) Dividends
Provision is made for the amount of any dividend declared, determined or publicly recommended by the Directors on or before the end of a financial year but not distributed at balance date.

(x) Repairs and maintenance
Plant and equipment and premises occupied require repairs and maintenance from time to time in the course of operations. The costs associated with repairs and maintenance are charged as expenses as incurred, except where they relate to an improvement in the useful life of an asset, in which case the costs are capitalised and depreciated in accordance with Note 1(k).

(y) Non-current assets (or disposal groups) held for sale
Non-current assets (or disposal groups) are classified as held for sale and stated at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use and a sale is considered highly probable.

An impairment loss is recognised for any initial or subsequent write down of the asset (or disposal group) to fair value less costs to sell. A gain is recognised for any subsequent increases in fair value less costs to sell of an asset (or disposal group) but not in excess of any cumulative impairment loss previously recognised. A gain or loss not previously recognised by the date of the sale of the non-current asset (or disposal group) is recognised at the date of derecognition.

Non-current assets (including those that are part of a disposal group) are not depreciated or amortised while they are classified as held for sale.

(z) Provisions
Provisions are recognised when the Group has a present legal, equitable or constructive obligation as a result of past transactions or other past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount has been reliably estimated. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

When there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the balance sheet date. The discount rate used to determine the present value reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. Any increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as borrowing costs expense.

Surplus leased space provisions are recognised where the Group has identified surplus lease space for premises under non-cancellable operating leases. Surplus leased space provisions are based on rental lease commitments and expected sublease income over the term of the lease and are amortised to the profit and loss on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Restructuring provisions are recognised where the Group has completed a business combination where there is a detailed formal plan for the restructure, and a present obligation immediately prior to the business combination and its execution was not conditional upon it being acquired by the Group.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(aa) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included within sundry debtors or sundry creditors in the Balance Sheet.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the taxation authority, are presented as operating cash flow.

(ab) Rounding of amounts

The Company is of a kind referred to in Class Order 98/0100 issued by the Australian Securities & Investments Commission, relating to the "rounding off" of amounts in the Financial Report. Amounts in the Financial Report have been rounded off in accordance with that Class Order to the nearest thousand dollars, or in certain cases, to the nearest dollar.

(ac) Significant accounting estimates and assumptions

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of estimates and assumptions of future events to determine the carrying amounts of certain assets and liabilities. Key estimates and assumptions used in the preparation of the Financial Report are:

Impairment of goodwill and intangibles with indefinite useful lives

The Group determines whether goodwill and intangibles with indefinite useful lives are impaired at least on an annual basis. This requires an estimation of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating units to which the goodwill and intangibles with indefinite useful lives are allocated. The assumptions used in this estimation of recoverable amount and the carrying amount of goodwill and intangibles with indefinite useful lives are discussed in Note 13.

Share based payment transactions

The Group measures the cost of equity-settled share based payments at fair value at the grant date using a pricing model consistent with the Black Scholes methodology, taking into account the terms and conditions upon which the instruments were granted, as discussed in Note 34.

Provisional accounting of business combinations

The Group provisionally accounts for certain business combinations where the Group is in the process of ascertaining the fair values of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities acquired. In doing so, the Group has relied on the best estimate of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities as disclosed in Note 29, until the quantification and treatment of items under review is complete.

Pension benefits

The present value of the pension obligations depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a number of assumptions. These assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions will impact the carrying amount of pension obligations.

The Group determines the appropriate discount rate at the end of each year. This is the interest rate that should be used to determine the present value of estimated future cash outflows expected to be required to settle the pension obligations. In determining the appropriate discount rate, the Group considers the interest rates of high quality corporate bonds that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits will be paid, and that have terms to maturity approximating the terms of the related pension liability. Market yields on government bonds are used in countries where there is no deep market in corporate bonds.

Other key assumptions for pension obligations are based in part on current market conditions. Additional information is disclosed in Note 24.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(ac) Significant accounting estimates and assumptions (continued)

Income tax
The Group is subject to income taxes in eight jurisdictions around the world. Significant judgement is required in determining the provision for income taxes on a worldwide basis. Where the final tax outcome is different from amounts provided, such differences will impact the current or deferred tax provisions in the period in which such outcome is obtained.

Trade debtors
Accounts receivable assessments require significant judgement in the USA due to contractual allowances, being discounts provided to certain payers against the Company's patient fee schedules. Revenue is billed at the fee schedule rate, but is recognised net of estimated contractual discounts. Adjustments are then made to revenue based on final payments received. Management diligently reviews allowances to ensure that the recoverable amount of debtors is materially accurate.

(ad) New accounting standards and interpretations
Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not applicable for the Group for the financial year ended 30 June 2015. The Group has elected not to early adopt these new standards and interpretations. An assessment of the future impact of the new standards and interpretations is set out below.

(i) AASB 9 Financial Instruments
AASB 9 *Financial Instruments* addresses the classification and measurement of financial assets and liabilities. The standard is not applicable until 1 January 2018 but is available for early adoption. The Group is yet to assess its full impact. However, initial indications are that it would not materially alter the carrying value of the Group's financial assets and liabilities. The Group has not yet decided when to adopt AASB 9.

(ii) AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers
AASB has issued a new standard for the recognition of revenue, applicable from 1 January 2018. This will replace AASB 118 *Revenue*. The new standard is based on the principle that revenue is recognised when control of a good or service transfer to a customer. Management is currently assessing the impact of the new standard but does not believe it would materially alter the revenue recognised by the Group.

(ae) Changes in accounting policies
There were no impacts on the financial statements of the Group as a consequence of new standards effective 1 July 2014.

(af) Parent Company financial information
The financial information for the Parent Company, Sonic Healthcare Limited, disclosed in Note 39 has been prepared on the same basis as the consolidated financial statements, except as set out below.

(i) Investments in subsidiaries
Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for at cost in the financial statements of Sonic Healthcare Limited.

(ii) Tax consolidation legislation
Sonic Healthcare Limited and its wholly-owned Australian controlled entities implemented the tax consolidation legislation with effect from 30 June 2004, and have notified the Australian Taxation Office of this event. The head entity, Sonic Healthcare Limited, and the controlled entities in the tax consolidated group account for their own deferred tax amounts. These tax amounts are measured as if each entity in the tax consolidated group continues to be a stand alone tax payer in its own right. In addition to its own current and deferred tax amounts Sonic Healthcare Limited, as the head entity in the tax consolidated group, also recognises the current tax liabilities (or assets) assumed from the controlled entities in the tax consolidated group. Under tax sharing and funding agreements amounts receivable or payable between the tax consolidated entities are recognised within current amounts receivable/payable to controlled entities.

The entities have also entered into a tax funding agreement under which the wholly-owned entities fully compensate Sonic Healthcare Limited for any current tax payable assumed and are compensated by Sonic Healthcare Limited for any current tax receivable transferred under the tax consolidation legislation. The funding amounts are determined by reference to the amounts recognised in the wholly-owned entities' financial statements.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(af) Parent Company financial information (continued)

(iii) Share based payments
The grant by the Parent Company of options over its equity instruments to the employees of subsidiary undertakings in the Group is treated as a capital contribution to that subsidiary undertaking. The fair value of employee services received, measured by reference to the grant date fair value, is recognised over the vesting period as an increase to investment in subsidiary undertakings, with a corresponding credit to equity.

(iv) Investment property
Investment property for the Parent Company comprises freehold office/laboratory buildings held for long term rental, mainly to certain subsidiaries. Investment property is carried at fair value, which is based on Directors' valuations using active market prices, adjusted, if necessary, for any difference in the nature, location or condition of the specific asset. If this information is not available, the Group uses alternative valuation methods such as recent prices in less active markets or discounted cash flow projections. Changes in fair values are recorded in the Income Statement as part of other income.

Note 2 Segment information

Business segments
The Group has identified its operating segments based on the internal reports that are reviewed and used by the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Directors (the chief operating decision makers) in assessing performance and determining the allocation of resources. The internal reports use a "Constant Currency" basis for reporting revenue and EBITA with foreign currency elements restated using the relevant prior period average exchange rates. The segment revenue and EBITA have therefore been presented using Constant Currency.

The operating segments are identified by management based on the nature of the services provided. Discrete financial information about each of these operating businesses is reported to the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Directors on at least a monthly basis.

The reportable segments are based on aggregated operating segments determined by the similarity of the services provided, as these are the sources of the Group's major risks and have the most effect on the rates of return. The Group has the following reportable segments.

(i) Laboratory
Pathology/clinical laboratory services provided in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Ireland.

(ii) Imaging
Diagnostic imaging services provided in Australia and New Zealand (operations in New Zealand ceased 31 March 2014).

(iii) Other
Includes the corporate office function, medical centre operations and occupational health services, and other minor operations.

Note 2 Segment information (continued)

Business segments (continued)

2015	Pathology $'000	Imaging $'000	Other $'000	Eliminations $'000	Consolidated Group $'000
Revenue (Constant Currency)					
External sales	3,342,293	414,034	361,347	-	4,117,674
Inter-segment sales	38	290	9,924	(10,252)	-
Total segment revenue (Constant Currency)	3,342,331	414,324	371,271	(10,252)	4,117,674
Currency exchange rate movements	79,055	-	-	-	79,055
Total segment revenue (Statutory)	3,421,386	414,324	371,271	(10,252)	4,196,729
Interest income					3,796
Total revenue					**4,200,525**
Result					
Segment result (Constant Currency)	487,804	55,393	10,151	-	553,348
Currency exchange rate movements	5,330	-	-	-	5,330
Segment result (Statutory)	493,134	55,393	10,151	-	558,678
Amortisation of intangibles					(43,231)
Unallocated net interest expense					(52,132)
Profit before tax					**463,315**
Income tax expense					(109,278)
Profit after income tax expense					**354,037**
Depreciation	87,508	29,701	18,762	-	**135,971**
Other non-cash expenses	62,671	1,290	3,799	-	**67,760**

2014	Pathology $'000	Imaging $'000	Other $'000	Eliminations $'000	Consolidated Group $'000
Revenue					
External sales	3,145,907	414,919	349,404	-	3,910,230
Inter-segment sales	494	244	8,710	(9,448)	-
Total segment revenue	3,146,401	415,163	358,114	(9,448)	3,910,230
Interest income					3,245
Total revenue					**3,913,475**
Result					
Segment result	532,066	56,381	20,423	-	608,870
Amortisation of intangibles					(36,439)
Unallocated net interest expense					(57,465)
Profit before tax					**514,966**
Income tax expense					(126,106)
Profit after income tax expense					**388,860**
Depreciation	77,536	29,941	16,673	-	**124,150**
Other non-cash expenses	12,536	1,314	3,979	-	**17,829**

Note 2 Segment information (continued)

Geographical information

	Revenues from sales to external customers*		Non-current assets*^	
	2015	2014	**2015**	2014
	$'000	$'000	**$'000**	$'000
Australia	**1,961,181**	1,872,009	**2,045,121**	1,957,232
United States of America	**929,959**	830,385	**1,584,990**	1,279,654
Germany	**805,022**	744,402	**951,376**	927,446
Other	**500,567**	463,434	**717,198**	692,633
Total	**4,196,729**	3,910,230	**5,298,685**	4,856,965

* Note that changes between years are affected by exchange rate movements and the timing of business acquisitions.
^ Note that this includes all non-current assets other than financial instruments and deferred tax assets.

Note 3 Revenue

	Consolidated Group	
	2015	2014
	$'000	$'000
Services revenue		
Medical services revenue	**4,141,094**	3,854,989
Other revenue		
Government grants	**30,287**	31,948
Interest received or due and receivable	**3,796**	3,245
Rental income	**15,012**	13,245
Other revenue	**10,336**	10,048
	59,431	58,486
Revenue from operations	**4,200,525**	3,913,475

Note 4 Expenses

Profit before income tax includes the following specific expenses

	2015	2014
Finance costs		
Finance charges on capitalised leases	**77**	97
Other borrowing costs	**55,851**	60,613
Total borrowing costs	**55,928**	60,710
Bad and doubtful debts		
Trade debtors	**122,139**	82,955
Amortisation of		
Intangibles	**43,231**	36,439
Leased plant and equipment	**648**	809
Total amortisation	**43,879**	37,248
Depreciation of		
Plant and equipment	**130,376**	118,130
Buildings	**4,947**	5,211
Total depreciation	**135,323**	123,341
Rental expense relating to operating leases		
Minimum lease payments	**260,455**	225,052
Defined contribution superannuation expense	**84,945**	80,917

Note 5 Dividends

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Total dividends paid on ordinary shares during the year		
Final dividend for the year ended 30 June 2014 of 40 cents (2013: 37 cents) per share paid on 23 September 2014 (2013: 24 September 2013), franked to 55% (2013: 45%)	**160,449**	148,056
Interim dividend for the year ended 30 June 2015 of 29 cents (2014: 27 cents) per share paid on 25 March 2015 (2014: 25 March 2014), franked to 55% (2014: 45%)	**116,568**	108,213
	277,017	256,269
Dividends not recognised at year end		
In addition to the above dividends, since year end the Directors declared a final dividend of 41 cents (2014: 40 cents) per ordinary share, franked to 55% (2014: 55%) based on tax paid at 30%. The aggregate amount of the final dividend payable on 22 October 2015 out of retained earnings at the end of the year, but not recognised as a liability is:	**164,908**	160,449

Franked dividends

The 2015 final dividend declared after the year end was 55% franked out of existing franking credits and out of franking credits arising from the payment of income tax in the year ending 30 June 2016.

Franking credits available at the year end for subsequent financial years based on a tax rate of 30%	**27,173**	35,455

The consolidated amounts include franking credits that would be available if distributable profits of subsidiaries not part of the Australian tax group were paid as dividends.

Dividend Reinvestment Plan ("DRP")

The Company's Dividend Reinvestment Plan will operate for the FY2015 final dividend. The DRP pricing methodology is the average VWAP over the pricing period (16 September to 13 October 2015 (both inclusive)) as determined in accordance with the DRP rules. A discount of 1.5% will apply to the price of shares issued under the DRP. The DRP application price will be announced to the ASX at the end of the pricing period. Sonic intends to satisfy DRP requirements for this dividend by issuing new shares.

The Company has entered into a DRP Shortfall Placement Agreement with CBA Equities Limited ("CBA Equities") under which CBA Equities will subscribe for shares with a value up to 100% of the shortfall in DRP participation by shareholders in relation to the 2015 final dividend. The subscription price to be paid by CBA Equities may not equate to the DRP subscription price.

Note 6 Income tax

(a) Income tax expense

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	Consolidated Group 2014 $'000
Current tax	**103,457**	107,925
Deferred tax	**7,722**	16,937
(Over)/under provision in prior years	**(1,901)**	1,244
Income tax expense	**109,278**	126,106
Deferred income tax expense included in income tax expense comprises:		
(Increase)/decrease in deferred tax assets (Note 14)	**(17,254)**	1,345
Increase in deferred tax liabilities (Note 23)	**24,976**	15,592
	7,722	16,937

(b) Income tax expense on pre-tax accounting profit from operations reconciles to the income tax expense in the financial statements as follows:

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Profit before income tax expense	**463,315**	514,966
Tax at the Australian tax rate of 30% (2014: 30%)	**138,995**	154,490
Tax effect of amounts which are not deductible/ (taxable) in calculating taxable income:		
Other deductible/non-taxable items (net)	**(29,717)**	(28,384)
Income tax expense	**109,278**	126,106

(c) Tax expense/(income) relating to items of other comprehensive income

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Cash flow hedges	**70**	892
Actuarial (losses) on retirement benefit obligations	**(2,573)**	(638)
	(2,503)	254

(d) Tax losses

Deferred tax assets of $22,780,000 (2014: $10,611,000) on the Group's Balance Sheet at 30 June 2015 relate to tax losses (Note 14) across the Group.

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
The Directors estimate that the potential deferred tax asset at 30 June 2015 in respect of tax losses not brought to account is:	**1,870**	1,851

This benefit of tax losses, the majority of which were acquired in the Omnilabs Pathology acquisition in the 2004 financial year with minor additional other losses occurring in later years, will only be obtained if:

(i) the Group derives future assessable income of a nature and of an amount sufficient to enable the benefit from the deductions for the losses to be realised, or
(ii) the losses are transferred to an eligible entity in the Group, and
(iii) the Group continues to comply with the conditions for deductibility imposed by tax legislation, and
(iv) no changes in tax legislation adversely affect the Group in realising the benefit from the deductions for the losses.

Note 6 Income tax (continued)

(e) Unrecognised temporary differences

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	Consolidated Group 2014 $'000
Temporary differences relating to investments in subsidiaries for which deferred tax assets and liabilities have not been recognised:		
Foreign currency translation	**10,446**	(23,928)
Undistributed earnings	**2,582**	8,911
	13,028	(15,017)

A deferred tax asset has not been recognised in respect of temporary differences arising as a result of the translation of the financial statements of the Group's overseas subsidiaries. The deferred tax asset will only arise in the event of disposal of the subsidiaries, and no such disposals are expected in the foreseeable future.

Certain subsidiaries of Sonic Healthcare Limited have undistributed earnings which, if paid out as dividends, would be unfranked and therefore subject to tax in the hands of the recipient. A taxable temporary difference exists, however no deferred tax liability has been recognised as the Parent Company is able to control the timing of distributions from these subsidiaries and is not expected to distribute these profits in the foreseeable future.

(f) Tax consolidation legislation

Sonic Healthcare Limited and its wholly-owned Australian subsidiaries implemented the Australian tax consolidation legislation at 30 June 2004. The accounting policy in relation to this legislation is set out in Note 1(c).

On adoption of the tax consolidation legislation, the entities in the tax consolidated group entered into a tax sharing agreement. In the opinion of the Directors, the tax sharing agreement is a valid agreement under the tax consolidation legislation and limits the joint and several liability of the wholly-owned entities in the case of a default by Sonic Healthcare Limited.

The entities have also entered into a tax funding agreement under which the wholly-owned entities fully compensate Sonic Healthcare Limited for any current tax payable assumed and are compensated by Sonic Healthcare Limited for any current tax receivable and deferred tax assets related to unused tax losses or unused tax credits that are transferred to Sonic Healthcare Limited under the tax consolidation legislation. The funding amounts are determined by reference to the amounts recognised in the wholly-owned entities' financial statements.

The amounts receivable/payable under the tax funding agreement are due upon receipt of the funding advice from the head entity, which is issued as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year. The head entity may also require payment of interim funding amounts to assist with its obligations to pay tax instalments. The funding amounts are recognised as current intercompany receivables or payables.

Note 7 Receivables – current

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	Consolidated Group 2014 $'000
Trade debtors	**611,241**	530,666
Less: Provision for impairment (a)	**(100,856)**	(59,347)
	510,385	471,319
Accrued revenue	**92,486**	66,567
Amounts owing from other entities	**2,168**	2,369
Sundry debtors	**43,677**	35,744
	648,716	575,999

Note 7 Receivables – current (continued)

Significant terms and conditions
Trade debtors are generally required to be settled within 30 days.

Sundry debtors generally arise from transactions outside the usual trading activities of the Group. Collateral is not normally obtained.

Transactions outside the usual operating activities of the Group have given rise to amounts owing from other entities. Repayments are specified by agreements.

(a) Impaired trade debtors
A provision for impairment loss is recognised when there is objective evidence that an individual trade receivable is impaired. As at 30 June 2015 current trade debtors of the Group with a nominal value of $100,856,000 (2014: $59,347,000) were impaired.

Movements in the provision for impairment of receivables were as follows:

	Consolidated Group	
	2015	2014
	$'000	$'000
Opening balance at 1 July	**59,347**	58,380
Provisions on acquisition of controlled entities	**-**	720
Provision for impairment expensed	**122,139**	82,955
Foreign exchange movements	**7,977**	(4,824)
Receivables written off	**(88,607)**	(77,884)
Closing balance at 30 June	**100,856**	59,347

Amounts charged to the provision account are generally written off when there is no expectation of recovering additional cash in excess of the cost of recovery.

(b) Past due but not impaired
As of 30 June 2015, trade debtors of $214,784,000 (2014: $224,494,000) were past due but not impaired. The characteristics of these debtors support their recoverability. The ageing analysis of these trade debtors is as follows:

	Consolidated Group	
	2015	2014
	$'000	$'000
1-2 months	**69,754**	67,061
2-3 months	**38,529**	34,377
3-4 months	**28,950**	25,661
4 months +	**77,551**	97,395
Closing balance at 30 June	**214,784**	224,494

All other trade debtors and classes within "Receivables – current" do not contain impaired assets and are not past due. Based on the credit history of these receivables, it is expected that these amounts will be received when due. The Group does not hold collateral in relation to these receivables.

(c) Foreign exchange and interest rate risk
Information about the Group's exposure to foreign currency risk and interest rate risk in relation to trade and other receivables is provided in Note 38.

No material carrying amounts of the Group's trade debtors are denominated in a non-functional currency.

(d) Fair value and credit risk
Due to the short term nature of these receivables, the carrying value is assumed to approximate their fair value. The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the fair value of each class of receivables mentioned above.

	Consolidated Group	
	2015	2014
	$'000	$'000

Note 8 Inventories – current

Consumable stores at cost	**76,066**	65,153

Note 9 Other assets – current

Prepayments	**45,527**	39,730

Note 10 Receivables – non-current

Amounts owing from other entities	**17,710**	12,235

Amounts owing from other entities
Transactions outside the usual operating activities of the Group give rise to these amounts receivable. Interest is charged at commercial rates and repayments are specified by agreements.

Fair values
The carrying value of non-current receivables approximates their fair value.

Credit risk exposures
The credit risk on financial assets of the Group which have been recognised on the Balance Sheet, other than investments in shares, is generally the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment. Where entities have a right of set-off and intend to settle on a net basis, this set-off has been reflected in the financial statements in accordance with accounting standards.

None of the non-current receivables are past due or impaired.

	Consolidated Group	
	2015	2014
	$'000	$'000

Note 11 Other financial assets – non-current

Investments and capitalised costs – at recoverable amount	**62,384**	67,865

Other financial assets
Other financial assets have been written down to their assessed recoverable amount.

Note 12 Property, plant and equipment – non-current

Consolidated Group	Freehold land & buildings $'000	Plant & equipment $'000	Leased plant & equipment $'000	Total $'000
At 1 July 2013				
Cost	217,967	1,254,004	10,153	1,482,124
Accumulated depreciation	(39,867)	(775,271)	(8,259)	(823,397)
Net book amount	178,100	478,733	1,894	658,727
Year ended 30 June 2014				
Opening net book amount at 1 July 2013	178,100	478,733	1,894	658,727
Additions	18,907	135,545	740	155,192
Additions through business combinations	-	8,216	-	8,216
Disposals	(5,392)	(12,190)	(110)	(17,692)
Depreciation/amortisation expense (Note 4)	(5,211)	(118,130)	(809)	(124,150)
Foreign exchange movements	86	11,717	(219)	11,584
Closing net book amount	186,490	503,891	1,496	691,877
At 30 June 2014				
Cost	229,900	1,376,276	9,024	1,615,200
Accumulated depreciation	(43,410)	(872,385)	(7,528)	(923,323)
Net book amount	186,490	503,891	1,496	691,877
Year ended 30 June 2015				
Opening net book amount at 1 July 2014	186,490	503,891	1,496	691,877
Additions	41,690	155,788	849	198,327
Additions through business combinations (Note 29)	-	4,146	184	4,330
Disposals	(5,412)	(6,654)	(60)	(12,126)
Depreciation/amortisation expense (Note 4)	(4,947)	(130,376)	(648)	(135,971)
Foreign exchange movements	6,475	37,911	296	44,682
Closing net book amount	**224,296**	**564,706**	**2,117**	**791,119**
At 30 June 2015				
Cost	270,982	1,525,074	11,769	1,807,825
Accumulated depreciation	(46,686)	(960,368)	(9,652)	(1,016,706)
Net book amount	**224,296**	**564,706**	**2,117**	**791,119**

Capitalised borrowing costs
The Group has capitalised $901,000 (2014: $1,408,000) of borrowing costs during the year relating to qualifying assets. The capitalisation rate used to determine the amount of borrowing costs to be capitalised is the weighted average interest rate applicable to the entity's relevant outstanding borrowings during the year of 3.55% (2014: 4.21%).

Non-current assets pledged as security
Refer to Note 32 for information on non-current assets pledged as security by the Group.

Note 13 Intangible assets – non-current

Consolidated Group	Brand Names $'000	Goodwill $'000	Software* $'000	Other $'000	Total $'000
At 1 July 2013					
Cost	185,189	3,702,581	239,013	54,249	4,181,032
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(51,239)	(89,866)	(108,294)	(18,259)	(267,658)
Net book amount	133,950	3,612,715	130,719	35,990	3,913,374
Year ended 30 June 2014					
Opening net book amount	133,950	3,612,715	130,719	35,990	3,913,374
Acquisition of businesses	-	121,489	59	233	121,781
Additions – externally acquired	-	-	20,408	13,993	34,401
Additions – internally generated	-	-	33,193	-	33,193
Disposals	-	(4,344)	(357)	(1,498)	(6,199)
Foreign exchange movements	-	21,745	2,754	354	24,853
Amortisation charge (Note 4)	-	-	(26,598)	(9,841)	(36,439)
Closing net book amount	133,950	3,751,605	160,178	39,231	4,084,964
At 30 June 2014					
Cost	188,864	3,850,258	294,843	65,443	4,399,408
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(54,914)	(98,653)	(134,665)	(26,212)	(314,444)
Net book amount	133,950	3,751,605	160,178	39,231	4,084,964
Year ended 30 June 2015					
Opening net book amount	133,950	3,751,605	160,178	39,231	4,084,964
Acquisition of businesses (Note 29)	-	43,940	144	833	44,917
Additions – externally acquired	-	-	19,738	16,554	36,292
Additions – internally generated	-	-	30,396	-	30,396
Disposals	-	-	(53)	-	(53)
Foreign exchange movements	-	268,230	3,991	1,875	274,096
Amortisation charge (Note 4)	-	-	(31,979)	(11,252)	(43,231)
Closing net book amount	**133,950**	**4,063,775**	**182,415**	**47,241**	**4,427,381**
At 30 June 2015					
Cost	186,694	4,162,538	353,884	83,985	4,787,101
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(52,744)	(98,763)	(171,469)	(36,744)	(359,720)
Net book amount	**133,950**	**4,063,775**	**182,415**	**47,241**	**4,427,381**

* Software includes both externally acquired software and capitalised development costs, being an internally generated intangible asset.

Note 13 Intangible assets – non-current (continued)

(a) Impairment testing of goodwill and intangibles with indefinite useful lives

Goodwill is allocated to the Group's cash-generating units (CGUs) for the purposes of assessing impairment according to business segment and geographic location. A summary of the goodwill allocation is presented below.

2015

Australia Pathology $'000	UK Pathology $'000	USA Pathology $'000	Germany Pathology $'000	Switzerland Pathology $'000	Belgium Pathology $'000	Imaging $'000	Total $'000
840,143	138,656	1,428,355	794,247	110,508	388,100	363,766	4,063,775

2014

Australia Pathology $'000	UK Pathology $'000	USA Pathology $'000	Germany Pathology $'000	Switzerland Pathology $'000	Belgium Pathology $'000	Imaging $'000	Total $'000
813,467	124,127	1,167,769	783,786	109,435	389,227	363,794	3,751,605

The carrying value of brand names of $133,950,000 at 30 June 2015 and 2014 relates solely to the Australia Pathology CGU and the recoverable amounts are assessed as part of the recoverable amount of the CGU.

The recoverable amount of a CGU is determined based on value-in-use calculations. These calculations use cash projections based on financial budgets approved by management covering a five year period. Cash flows beyond the five year period are extrapolated using the estimated growth rates stated below. The growth rate does not exceed the long term average growth rate for the business in which the CGU operates.

(b) Key assumptions used for value-in-use calculations

The recoverable amount of each cash generating unit is the net present value of the future cash flows of the cash generating unit. Recoverable amounts have been conservatively assessed using:

- 2015/2016 Board approved profit and loss and cash flow budgets for each cash generating unit;
- earnings cash flow growth factors consistent with historical growth rates and current performance: Australia Pathology 8-9% (2014: 8-9%), UK 7-8% (2014: 9-10%), USA 9-10% (2014: 9-10%), Germany 7-8% (2014: 7-8%), Switzerland 7-8% (2014: 7-8%), Belgium 2-3% (2013: 2-3%), Imaging 8-9% (2014: 7-8%);
- prevailing market based pre-tax discount rates of 7-8% (2014: 8-9%); and
- terminal growth rates: 3-4% (2014: 3-4%).

Management believes that any reasonably possible change in the key assumptions on which recoverable amount has been assessed would not cause the carrying amount to exceed the recoverable amount in any of the cash generating units.

Note 14 Deferred tax assets – non-current

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Deferred tax assets	**30,318**	27,622
The balance comprises temporary differences attributable to:		
Amounts recognised in profit or loss		
Doubtful debts	**31,733**	22,803
Employee benefits	**49,327**	45,490
Sundry accruals	**26,029**	21,775
Unrealised foreign exchange movements	**2,229**	393
Intangibles	**3,721**	4,453
Tax losses*	**22,780**	10,611
	135,819	105,525
Amounts recognised directly in equity/other comprehensive income		
Share issue costs	**12**	18
Cash flow hedges	**-**	70
Deferred tax assets	**135,831**	105,613
Less: amounts offset against deferred tax liabilities (Note 23)	**(105,513)**	(77,991)
Net deferred tax assets	**30,318**	27,622
Movements:		
Opening balance at 1 July	**27,622**	26,303
Credited/(charged) to the Income Statement (Note 6)	**17,254**	(1,345)
Foreign exchange movements	**(14,789)**	2,608
Acquisition/disposal of subsidiaries	**231**	56
Closing balance at 30 June	**30,318**	27,622
Deferred tax assets to be recovered within 12 months	**21,854**	21,616
Deferred tax assets to be recovered after more than 12 months	**8,464**	6,006
	30,318	27,622

* *The utilisation of the tax losses depends upon future taxable income derivation in addition to taxable income arising from the reversal of existing taxable temporary differences.*

Note 15 Other assets – non-current

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Prepayments	**91**	24

Note 16 Payables – current

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Trade creditors	**174,183**	168,191
Sundry creditors and accruals	**228,285**	181,880
	402,468	350,071

Fair value and risk exposure
Due to the short term nature of these payables, the carrying value is assumed to approximate their fair value. Information about the Group's exposure to foreign currency exchange rate risk is provided in Note 38.

Note 17 Interest bearing liabilities – current

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	Consolidated Group 2014 $'000
Secured		
Bank loans (a)	**290**	290
Lease liabilities (Note 30(b))	**634**	666
	924	956
Unsecured		
Bank loans (b)	**-**	448,736
Amounts owing to vendors (c)	**473**	696
	1,397	450,388

(a) Bank loans (secured)
The secured bank loans represent debt of the Bioscientia Healthcare Group. This loan has an interest rate of 2.9% and is repayable in instalments of €100,000 every six months, with the last repayment due on 30 June 2016.

(b) Bank loans (unsecured)
Details of the security, fair values and interest rate risk exposure relating to each of the secured and unsecured liabilities are set out in Note 32 and Note 38.

(c) Amounts owing to vendors
The amounts owing to vendors comprise deferred consideration for business acquisitions. These amounts are interest-bearing. The carrying value of these amounts approximates their fair value.

Note 18 Tax liabilities – current

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	Consolidated Group 2014 $'000
Income tax	**11,546**	44,093

Note 19 Provisions – current

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Employee benefits	**168,954**	158,053

Note 20 Other financial liabilities – current

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Interest rate swaps	**-**	235

Details of interest rate swaps are outlined in Note 38.

Note 21 Other liabilities – current

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Unsecured		
Amounts owing to vendors	**3,571**	1,584
Put option relating to minority interest	**-**	16,042
Other	**370**	728
	3,941	18,354

The amounts owing to vendors comprise deferred consideration for business acquisitions made in the current and prior periods (refer Note 29). Amounts owing to vendors and other loans are non-interest bearing. The carrying value of these amounts approximates their fair value.

The put option relates to the purchase of the remaining shares in Labor Dr. Steinberg, and has been extended and hence is now disclosed as non-current.

Note 22 Interest bearing liabilities – non-current

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Secured		
Bank loans	**-**	290
Lease liabilities (Note 30(b))	**875**	717
	875	1,007
Unsecured		
Amounts owing to vendors (a)	**307**	313
Bank loans	**1,414,470**	988,940
USPP notes (b)	**808,333**	530,279
	2,223,985	1,520,539

(a) Amounts owing to vendors
The amounts owing to vendors comprises deferred consideration for business acquisitions. These amounts are interest-bearing. The carrying value of these amounts approximates their fair value.

(b) USPP notes
In January 2010 and January 2011 Sonic issued notes to investors in the United States Private Placement market, raising US$500M of long term (7-10 years) debt. In November 2014 Sonic issued a further €110M of notes in the United States Private Placement market with a tenor of 10 years.

Note 22 Interest bearing liabilities – non-current (continued)

(c) Financing facilities available

At 30 June 2015, the following financing facilities were available:

2015	Total facilities at 30 June 2015 000's	Facilities used at 30 June 2015 000's	Facilities unused at 30 June 2015 000's
Bank overdraft	A$2,374	-	A$2,374
Bank loans			
- Syndicated facilities multi-currency USD limits	US$350,000	US$350,000	-
- Syndicated facilities multi-currency Euro limits	€500,000	€459,550	€40,450
- Syndicated facilities multi-currency AUD limits	A$250,000	A$57,330	A$192,670
- Bilateral multi-currency USD limits	US$75,000	US$10,795	US$64,205
- Bilateral term facility GBP limits	£40,000	£40,000	-
- Bilateral term facility Euro limits (secured)	€200	€200	-
- Club facility multi-currency Euro limits	€130,000	€98,000	€32,000
USPP USD notes	US$500,000	US$500,000	-
USPP Euro notes	€110,000	€110,000	-
Leasing and hire purchase facilities	A$6,509	A$1,509	A$5,000

2014	Total facilities at 30 June 2014 000's	Facilities used at 30 June 2014 000's	Facilities unused at 30 June 2014 000's
Bank overdraft	A$2,652	-	A$2,652
Bank loans			
- Syndicated facilities multi-currency USD limits	US$285,000	US$285,000	-
- Syndicated facilities multi-currency Euro limits	€501,000	€501,000	-
- Syndicated facilities multi-currency AUD limits	A$179,000	A$9,071	A$169,929
- Bilateral term facility GBP limits	£40,000	£40,000	-
- Bilateral facility multi-currency USD limits	US$150,000	US$79,795	US$70,205
- Bilateral term facility Euro limits (secured)	€400	€400	-
- Club facility multi-currency Euro limits	€195,000	€166,550	€28,450
USPP notes	US$500,000	US$500,000	-
Leasing and hire purchase facilities	A$6,383	A$1,383	A$5,000

(d) Fair values

The carrying amount of borrowings approximates their fair value.

(e) Interest rate risk exposures

Details of the Group's exposure to interest rate changes on borrowings are set out in Note 38.

(f) Security

Details of the security relating to each of the secured liabilities are set out in Note 32.

Note 23 Deferred tax liabilities – non-current

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Provision for deferred income tax	**112,464**	89,991
The balance comprises temporary differences attributable to:		
Amounts recognised in profit or loss		
Prepayments & sundry debtors	**3,136**	1,148
Inventories	**9,771**	8,951
Accrued revenue	**13,926**	12,753
Leased assets	**2,774**	1,678
Intangibles	**153,646**	96,685
Property, plant & equipment	**33,510**	19,368
Capitalised costs	**1,214**	27,399
	217,977	167,982
Less: amounts offset against deferred tax assets (Note 14)	**(105,513)**	(77,991)
Net deferred tax liabilities	**112,464**	89,991
Movements:		
Opening balance at 1 July	**89,991**	74,145
Charged to the Income Statement (Note 6)	**24,976**	15,592
(Credited)/charged to other comprehensive income	**(2,503)**	254
Closing balance at 30 June	**112,464**	89,991
Deferred tax liabilities to be settled within 12 months	**17,835**	16,721
Deferred tax liabilities to be settled after more than 12 months	**94,629**	73,270
	112,464	89,991

Note 24 Provisions – non-current

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Employee benefits	**26,407**	21,532
Retirement benefit obligations	**37,169**	26,050
	63,576	47,582

Retirement benefit obligations

Certain employees of the Group are entitled to benefits from superannuation plans on retirement, disability or death. The Group contributes to defined contribution plans for the majority of employees. The defined contribution plans receive fixed contributions from Group companies and the Group's legal or constructive obligation is limited to these contributions. The Group has defined benefit plans in relation to certain non-Australian employees. The defined benefit plans provide lump sum benefits based on years of service and final average salary.

Note 24 Provisions – non-current (continued)

The following sets out details in respect of defined benefit plans only.

(a) Balance Sheet amounts

The amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet are determined as follows:

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Present value of the defined benefit plan obligations	**92,409**	61,655
Fair value of defined benefit plan assets	**(55,240)**	(35,605)
Net liability in the Balance Sheet	**37,169**	26,050

The Group has no legal obligation to settle this liability with an immediate contribution or additional one off contributions. The Group intends to continue to contribute to the Medica Laboratory Group defined benefit plans at a percentage of insured salaries (3.5% to 9.0% dependent on the employee's age bracket) in line with the actuary's latest recommendations and Swiss laws. No contributions are required to be made by the Group to the Bioscientia Healthcare Group defined benefit plan as future benefits are paid directly by Bioscientia and not from a separate plan asset pool.

(b) Categories of plan assets

The major categories of plan assets as a percentage of total plan assets are as follows:

	Consolidated Group 2015 %	2014 %
Cash – quoted	**1.7**	1.7
Mortgages – quoted	**5.3**	6.0
Real estate – unquoted	**6.7**	9.0
Bonds – quoted	**39.3**	42.0
Equities – quoted	**35.1**	30.1
Alternative investments – quoted	**11.9**	11.2
	100.0	100.0

(c) Reconciliations

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Reconciliation of the present value of the defined benefit obligation, which is partly funded		
Balance at the beginning of the year	**61,655**	60,712
Current service cost	**6,249**	1,255
Interest cost	**1,824**	1,412
Actuarial losses	**12,845**	4,113
Benefits paid	**(2,713)**	(1,446)
Member contributions	**1,287**	1,113
Other	**3,497**	(7,630)
Foreign exchange movements	**7,765**	2,126
Balance at the end of the year	**92,409**	61,655

Note 24 Provisions – non-current (continued)

(c) Reconciliations (continued)

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Reconciliation of the fair value of plan assets		
Balance at the beginning of the year	**35,605**	38,456
Interest income	**1,480**	666
Actuarial gains	**1,616**	906
Contributions by Group companies	**7,062**	1,113
Benefits paid	**(1,969)**	(749)
Member contributions	**1,287**	1,113
Other	**3,497**	(7,630)
Foreign exchange movements	**6,662**	1,730
Balance at the end of the year	**55,240**	35,605

(d) Amounts recognised in Income Statement

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Current service cost	**6,249**	1,255
Net interest expense	**344**	746
Total included in the employee benefit expense	**6,593**	2,001

(e) Amounts recognised in Statement of Comprehensive Income

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Actuarial (losses) recognised in the year	**(8,803)**	(2,561)
Cumulative actuarial (losses) recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income	**(14,407)**	(5,604)

(f) Principal actuarial assumptions

The principal actuarial assumptions used (expressed as weighted averages) were as follows:

	Consolidated Group 2015 %	2014 %
Discount rate	**1.26**	2.52
Future salary increases	**1.77**	2.06

If the discount rate had increased/decreased by 25 basis points (2014: 25 basis points), the impact on the defined benefit obligation would have been a decrease by 9.2%/increase by 9.8% (2014: decrease by 3.1%/increase by 3.5%).

The sensitivity analysis is based on a change in an assumption while holding all other assumptions constant. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be correlated. When calculating the sensitivity of the defined benefit obligation to significant actuarial assumptions the same method (present value of the defined benefit obligation calculated with the projected unit credit method at the end of the reporting period) has been applied as when calculating the defined benefit liability recognised in the balance sheet.

Note 24 Provisions – non-current (continued)

(g) Employer contributions

Medica Laboratory Group defined benefit plan
Employer contributions to the defined benefit plan are based on recommendations by the plan's actuary. Actuarial assessments are made on a yearly basis.

The objective of funding is to ensure that the benefit entitlements of members and other beneficiaries are fully funded by the time they become payable. To achieve this objective, the actuary has adopted a method of funding which seeks to have benefits funded by means of a total contribution which is expected to be a percentage of members' insured salaries over their working lifetimes.

Using the funding method described above and actuarial assumptions, the actuary recommended in the latest actuarial review the payment of employer contributions varying from 3.5% to 9% (2014: 3.5% to 9%) of the insured salaries of employees based on the employee age bracket and in accordance with Swiss laws.

Total employer contributions expected to be paid by Group companies for the year ending 30 June 2016 are based on the 2015 rates and are estimated at $3,554,000 (2014: $3,400,000).

	Consolidated Group	
	2015	2014
	$'000	$'000
(h) Experience adjustments		
Experience adjustments arising on plan liabilities	**(3,503)**	(927)
Experience adjustments arising on plan assets	**1,616**	906

Note 25 Other liabilities – non-current

Amounts owing to vendors	**3,638**	1,527
Put option relating to minority interest	**18,891**	2,904
Other	**11,847**	4,875
	34,376	9,306

The amounts owing to vendors comprises deferred consideration for business acquisitions made in current and prior periods (refer Note 29). These amounts are non-interest bearing. The carrying amount approximates their fair value.

The put options relate to the purchase of the remaining shares in Biovis Diagnostik and Labor Dr. Steinberg (2014: Biovis Diagnostik).

Note 26 Contributed equity

	2015 Shares	**2014 Shares**	**2015 $'000**	**2014 $'000**
(a) Share capital				
Fully paid ordinary shares	**401,991,556**	400,811,556	**2,561,890**	2,538,517
Other equity securities				
Treasury shares	**(4,309)**	-	**(73)**	-
	401,987,247	400,811,556	**2,561,817**	2,538,517

Note 26 Contributed equity (continued)

(b) Movements in ordinary share capital

2015

Date	Details	Number of shares	Issue price	Consolidated Group $'000
1/7/14	Opening balance of the Group	**400,811,556**		**2,538,517**
Various	Shares issued following exercise of employee options	**1,180,000**	Various	**21,573**
Various	Transfers from equity remuneration reserve	**-**		**1,800**
30/6/15	Balance of the Group	**401,991,556**		**2,561,890**

2014

Date	Details	Number of shares	Issue price	Consolidated Group $'000
1/7/13	Opening balance of the Group	397,158,181		2,468,102
Various	Shares issued following exercise of employee options	3,653,375	Various	55,255
Various	Transfers from equity remuneration reserve	-		15,160
30/6/14	Balance of the Group	400,811,556		2,538,517

(c) Ordinary shares

Ordinary shares entitle the holder to participate in dividends and the proceeds on winding up of the Company in proportion to the number of shares held. On a show of hands every holder of ordinary shares present at a meeting in person or by proxy is entitled to one vote, and upon a poll each share is entitled to one vote.

(d) Options

Details of options issued, exercised and forfeited during the financial year and options outstanding at the end of the financial year are set out in Note 34.

(e) Dividend reinvestment plan

The Company's DRP will operate for the 30 June 2015 final dividend.

(f) Treasury shares

Treasury shares are shares in Sonic Healthcare Limited that are held by the Sonic Healthcare Limited Employee Share Trust ("SHEST") for the purpose of providing shares under selected Group equity plans.

Date	Details	Number of shares	Consolidated Group $'000
1/7/13	Opening balance	-	-
Various	Subscription for unissued shares by SHEST	3,190,875	50,140
Various	Transfer of shares to employees to satisfy exercise of options	(3,190,875)	(50,140)
30/6/14	Balance	-	-
1/7/14	Opening balance	**-**	**-**
Various	Subscription for unissued shares by SHEST	1,117,500	20,884
17/10/14	On market purchase of Sonic shares by SHEST	5,902	100
Various	Transfer of shares to employees to satisfy exercise of options/rights	(1,119,093)	(20,911)
30/6/15	Balance	4,309	73

Note 27 Reserves and retained earnings

(a) Reserves

		Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Equity remuneration reserve	(i)	**(44,676)**	(36,284)
Foreign currency translation reserve	(ii)	**34,818**	(79,758)
Share option reserve	(iii)	**16,427**	16,427
Hedging reserve	(iv)	**-**	(164)
Revaluation reserve	(v)	**3,272**	3,272
Transactions with minority interests	(vi)	**(23,475)**	(23,434)
		(13,634)	(119,941)

Movements

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Equity remuneration reserve		
Balance 1 July	**(36,284)**	(5,323)
Option expense	**2,039**	2,559
Employee share scheme issue	**(8,631)**	(18,360)
Transfer to share capital (options exercised)	**(1,800)**	(15,160)
Balance 30 June	**(44,676)**	(36,284)
Foreign currency translation reserve		
Balance 1 July	**(79,758)**	(103,782)
Net exchange movement on translation of foreign subsidiaries	**114,576**	24,024
Balance 30 June	**34,818**	(79,758)
Share option reserve		
Balance 1 July	**16,427**	16,427
Movement	**-**	-
Balance 30 June	**16,427**	16,427
Hedging reserve		
Balance 1 July	**(164)**	(1,714)
Revaluation (net of deferred tax)	**(30)**	(204)
Transfer to net profit (net of deferred tax)	**194**	1,754
Balance 30 June	**-**	(164)
Revaluation reserve		
Balance 1 July	**3,272**	3,272
Movement	**-**	-
Balance 30 June	**3,272**	3,272
Transactions with minority interests		
Balance 1 July	**(23,434)**	(20,011)
Net exchange movement	**68**	(459)
Put option relating to minority interests	**-**	(2,904)
Acquisition of minority interest	**(109)**	(60)
Balance 30 June	**(23,475)**	(23,434)

Note 27 Reserves and retained earnings (continued)

(a) Reserves (continued)

Nature and purpose of reserves

(i) Equity remuneration reserve
The equity remuneration reserve reflects the fair value of equity-settled share based payments. Fair values are determined using a pricing model consistent with the Black Scholes methodology and recognised over the service period up to the vesting date. When shares are issued or options are exercised the associated fair values are transferred to share capital.

(ii) Foreign currency translation reserve
Exchange differences arising on translation of the foreign subsidiaries are taken to the foreign currency translation reserve as described in accounting policy Note 1(d)(iii).

(iii) Share option reserve
The share option reserve reflects the value of options issued as part of consideration for business combinations. The value of the options represents the assessed fair value at the date they were granted and has been determined using a pricing model consistent with the Black Scholes methodology that takes into account the exercise price, the term of the option, the impact of dilution, the non-tradeable nature of the option, the current price and expected volatility of the underlying share, the expected dividend yield, and the risk-free interest rate for the term of the option.

(iv) Hedging reserve
The hedging reserve is used to record changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as cash flow hedges, as described in Note 1(p). Amounts accumulated in equity are recycled in the Income Statement in the periods when the hedged item will affect profit and loss.

(v) Revaluation reserve
The revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the initial revaluation of non-current assets.

(vi) Transactions with minority interests
This reserve is used to record the differences described in Note 1(b) which may arise as a result of transactions with minority interests that do not result in a loss of control. The reserve includes the fair value of put options granted to the vendors to sell to the Group the remaining shares in Labor Dr. Steinberg and Biovis Diagnostik that are not already owned by the Group.

	Consolidated Group	
	2015	2014
	$'000	$'000
(b) Retained earnings		
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	**664,067**	537,913
Net profit attributable to members of Sonic Healthcare Limited	**347,698**	384,984
Dividends paid in the year (Note 5)	**(277,017)**	(256,269)
Actuarial (losses) on retirement benefit obligations (Note 24)	**(8,803)**	(2,561)
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	**725,945**	664,067

Note 28 Deed of cross guarantee

The "Closed Group" (refer Note 29) are parties to a deed of cross guarantee dated 28 June 2007 under which each company guarantees the debts of the others. By entering into the deed, the wholly-owned entities which are large proprietary companies have been relieved from the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* to prepare and lodge a financial report, directors' report and auditor's report under Class Order 98/1418 (as amended) issued by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

The companies represent a "Closed Group" for the purposes of the Class Order, and as there are no other parties to the Deed of Cross Guarantee that are controlled by Sonic Healthcare Limited, they also represent the "Extended Closed Group".

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
(a) Consolidated Income Statement of the Extended Closed Group		
Revenue	**2,105,253**	2,012,547
Labour and related costs	**(1,014,645)**	(951,702)
Consumables used	**(194,062)**	(181,142)
Operating lease rental expense	**(179,505)**	(152,214)
Depreciation and amortisation of physical assets	**(73,706)**	(69,513)
Utilities	**(56,534)**	(52,621)
Repairs and maintenance	**(45,251)**	(42,209)
Borrowing costs expense	**(18,245)**	(24,428)
Transportation	**(16,398)**	(15,997)
Amortisation of intangibles	**(24,715)**	(20,939)
Other expenses from ordinary activities	**(123,837)**	(114,601)
Profit before income tax expense	**358,355**	387,181
Income tax expense	**(55,163)**	(66,286)
Net profit after income tax expense	**303,192**	320,895
Net (profit) attributable to minority interests	**(1,584)**	(1,544)
Net profit attributable to members of the Extended Closed Group	**301,608**	319,351
(b) Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income of the Extended Closed Group		
Profit from ordinary activities after income tax expense	**303,192**	320,895
Other comprehensive income		
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss		
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	**(5,594)**	14,032
Cash flow hedges	**164**	1,357
Other comprehensive income for the period, net of tax	**(5,430)**	15,389
Total comprehensive income for the period	**297,762**	336,284
(c) Reconciliation of retained earnings		
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	**386,798**	323,681
Profit from ordinary activities after income tax expense	**301,608**	319,351
Retained earnings from entities leaving/joining the deed of cross guarantee	**-**	35
Dividends paid during the year	**(277,017)**	(256,269)
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	**411,389**	386,798

Note 28 Deed of cross guarantee (continued)

(d) Consolidated Balance Sheet of the Extended Closed Group

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	**27,893**	106,409
Receivables	**213,589**	203,590
Inventories	**26,130**	24,908
Other	**12,633**	11,666
Total current assets	**280,245**	346,573
Non-current assets		
Receivables	**12,420**	6,609
Other financial assets	**2,157,568**	2,142,052
Property, plant and equipment	**496,529**	453,803
Intangible assets	**1,483,225**	1,451,385
Deferred tax assets	**17,996**	18,102
Other	**91**	24
Total non-current assets	**4,167,829**	4,071,975
Total assets	**4,448,074**	4,418,548
Current liabilities		
Payables	**252,629**	288,563
Interest bearing liabilities	**474**	400,475
Current tax liabilities	**1,561**	24,973
Provisions	**130,108**	121,532
Other financial liabilities	**-**	235
Other	**2,652**	1,479
Total current liabilities	**387,424**	837,257
Non-current liabilities		
Interest bearing liabilities	**1,037,202**	597,997
Provisions	**20,831**	19,401
Deferred tax liabilities	**19,385**	18,359
Other	**5,699**	4,804
Total non-current liabilities	**1,083,117**	640,561
Total liabilities	**1,470,541**	1,477,818
Net assets	**2,977,533**	2,940,730
Equity		
Parent Company interest		
Contributed equity	**2,575,960**	2,549,927
Reserves	**(9,816)**	4,005
Retained earnings	**411,389**	386,798
Total equity	**2,977,533**	2,940,730

Note 29 Investments in subsidiaries

Details of subsidiaries	Country of incorporation	Class of share	Beneficial interest % 2015	Beneficial interest % 2014
Subsidiaries of Sonic Healthcare Limited:				
Clinpath Laboratories Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Lifescreen Australia Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Healthcare Genetics Pty Limited	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Clinical Trials Pty Limited	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Healthcare Services Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Imaging Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Southern Pathology Services Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Clinical Services Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Healthcare (UK) Pty Limited	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Healthcare (Ireland) Limited	Ireland	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Healthcare Holding Company	United Kingdom	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Healthcare Europe GmbH	Germany	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Healthcare Germany GmbH & Co. KG	Germany		**100**	100
Other subsidiaries in the Group:				
Capital Pathology Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Castlereagh Co Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Castlereagh Services Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Consultant Pathology Services Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Diagnostic Services Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Hanly Moir Pathology Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
San Pathology Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Hunter Imaging Group Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Hunter Valley X-Ray Pty Limited	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Hyperion Health Services Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
IRG Co Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
L & A Services Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Melbourne Pathology Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Melbourne Pathology Services Pty Limited	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Epworth Pathology	Australia		**50.1**	50.1
Northern Pathology Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Pacific Medical Imaging Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Paedu Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Queensland X-Ray Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Ultrarad No 2 Trust	Australia	Units	**99.9**	99.9
SKG Radiology Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Healthcare International Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Healthcare Pathology Pty Limited	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
A.C.N. 094 980 944 Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Medlab Holdings Australia Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Pathology (Queensland) Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Pathology (Victoria) Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
A.C.N. 002 889 545 Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Clinipath Pathology Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Sullivan Nicolaides Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Sunton Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
IPN Healthcare Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
IPN Medical Centres Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
IPN Medical Centres (QLD) Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
IPN Medical Centres (NSW) Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
IPN Medical Centres (VIC) Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100

Note 29 Investments in subsidiaries (continued)

Details of subsidiaries (continued)	Country of incorporation	Class of share	Beneficial interest % 2015	Beneficial interest % 2014
Medihelp Services Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic HealthPlus Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Gemini Medical Services Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Prime Health Group Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Allied Medical Group Holdings Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Lonnex & Millennium Management Holdings Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Matrix Skin Cancer Clinics Pty Limited (i)	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Australian Locum Medical Service Pty Limited	Australia	Ord	**100**	100
Pretium Pty Limited	Australia	Ord	**100**	-
Syscomp Biochemische Dienstleistungen GmbH	Germany	Ord	**100**	100
Bioscientia Institut für medizinische Diagnostik GmbH	Germany	Ord	**100**	100
Labor Schottdorf MVZ GmbH	Germany	Ord	**100**	100
Labor 28 GmbH	Germany	Ord	**100**	100
GLP medical GmbH	Germany	Ord	**100**	100
Dr. Von Froreich - Bioscientia GmbH	Germany	Ord	**100**	100
Labor Lademannbogen MVZ GmbH	Germany	Ord	**100**	100
MVZ Labor für Cytopathologie Dr. Steinberg GmbH	Germany	Ord	**51**	51
MVZ Medizinisches Labor Oldenburg Dr. Müller GmbH	Germany	Ord	**100**	100
Labdiagnostik GmbH	Germany	Ord	**100**	100
Biovis Diagnostik MVZ GmbH	Germany	Ord	**95**	95
Sonic Healthcare (New Zealand) Limited (i)	New Zealand	Ord	**100**	100
Diagnostic Medlab Limited	New Zealand	Ord	**100**	100
Medlab Central Limited	New Zealand	Ord	**100**	100
Diagnostic Medlab Services Limited	New Zealand	Ord	**100**	100
Medica Ärztebedarf AG	Switzerland	Ord	**100**	100
Medica Medizinische Laboratorien Dr F Käppeli AG	Switzerland	Ord	**100**	100
The Doctors Laboratory Limited	United Kingdom	Ord	**100**	100
TDL Analytical Limited	United Kingdom	Ord	**100**	100
TDL Facilities Limited	United Kingdom	Ord	**100**	100
TDL Genetics Limited	United Kingdom	Ord	**100**	100
NWLHT Analytical LLP	United Kingdom		**100**	100
NWLHT Facilities LLP	United Kingdom		**100**	100
Health Services Laboratories LLP	United Kingdom		**51**	-
HSL (Nominee) Ltd	United Kingdom	Ord	**51**	-
HSL (Analytics) LLP	United Kingdom		**51**	-
HSL (FM) LLP	United Kingdom		**51**	-
Medlab Pathology Limited	Ireland	Ord	**100**	100
Sonic Healthcare Investments GP	United States		**100**	100
Clinical Pathology Laboratories, Inc.	United States	Ord	**100**	100
Pathology Laboratories, Inc.	United States	Ord	**100**	100
American Esoteric Laboratories, Inc.	United States	Ord	**100**	100
Clinical Pathology Laboratories Southeast, Inc.	United States	Ord	**100**	100
Memphis Pathology Laboratory	United States		**100**	100
Sonic Healthcare USA, Inc.	United States	Ord	**100**	100
Sunrise Medical Laboratories, Inc.	United States	Ord	**100**	100
Clinical Laboratories of Hawaii, LLP	United States		**100**	100
Pan Pacific Pathologists, LLC	United States	Ord	**100**	100
East Side Clinical Laboratory, Inc.	United States	Ord	**100**	100
CBLPath, Inc.	United States	Ord	**100**	100
Physician’s Automated Laboratory, Inc.	United States	Ord	**100**	100

Note 29 Investment in subsidiaries (continued)

Details of subsidiaries (continued)	**Country of incorporation**	**Class of share**	**Beneficial interest % 2015**	Beneficial Interest % 2014
Sonic Healthcare Benelux NV	Belgium	Ord	**100**	100
Labo-Lokeren BV BVBA	Belgium	Ord	**100**	100
Medvet BV BVBA	Belgium	Ord	**100**	100
A.M.L. BV BVBA	Belgium	Ord	**100**	100
Clinilabo BV BVBA	Belgium	Ord	**-**	100
Medisch labo Van Waes D. BV CVBA	Belgium	Ord	**100**	100
Klinisch Labo Rigo BV BVBA	Belgium	Ord	**100**	100
ALTEHA ESV	Belgium	Ord	**100**	100
Laboratoires J. Woestyn	Belgium	Ord	**100**	100

(i) These subsidiaries comprise the "Closed Group" under the deed of cross guarantee. By entering into the deed wholly-owned entities which are large proprietary companies have been granted relief from the necessity to prepare a financial report, directors' report and auditor's report in accordance with Class Order 98/1418 (as amended) issued by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission. For further information see Note 28.

Business combinations

(a) Acquisition of subsidiaries/business assets

A number of small acquisitions of subsidiaries/business assets occurred in the period. The contribution these acquisitions made to the Group's profit during the period was immaterial individually and in total. It is impracticable to determine the contribution these immaterial acquisitions made to the net profit of the Group during the period, and what they are likely to contribute on an annualised basis, as the acquisitions were merged with other entities in the Group. The accounting for these business combinations has been finalised at the date of this report.

Note 29 Investments in subsidiaries (continued)

Business combinations (continued)

(a) Acquisition of subsidiaries/business assets (continued)

The aggregate cost of the combinations, the values of the identifiable assets and liabilities, and the goodwill arising on acquisition are detailed below:

	Total $'000
Consideration - cash paid	**42,579**
Less: Cash of entities acquired	**(300)**
	42,279
Deferred consideration	**6,121**
Total consideration	**48,400**
Fair value of identifiable net assets of subsidiaries/businesses acquired:	
Debtors & other receivables	**2,830**
Prepayments	**86**
Inventory	**208**
Deferred tax assets	**794**
Property, plant & equipment	**4,330**
Identifiable intangibles	**977**
Trade payables	**(68)**
Sundry creditors & accruals	**(1,090)**
Borrowings	**(925)**
Provisions	**(2,682)**
	4,460
Goodwill	**43,940**

The goodwill arising from the business combinations is attributable to their reputation in the local market, the benefit of marginal profit and synergies expected to be achieved from integrating the business with existing operations, expected revenue growth, future market development, the assembled workforce and knowledge of local markets. These benefits are not able to be individually identified or recognised separately from goodwill. None of the purchased goodwill recognised is expected to be deductible for income tax purposes.

Acquisition related costs of $2,480,000 are included in other expenses in the Income Statement. The fair value of acquired debtors and other receivables is $2,830,000. The gross contractual amount due is $2,830,000 of which $nil is expected to be uncollectable.

There were no subsequent changes to the accounting for the business combinations in the 2014 financial year from those included in the 2014 financial statements.

	Consolidated Group	
	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
(b) Reconciliation of cash paid to Cash Flow Statement		
Cash consideration and acquisition costs for acquisitions in the financial year	**45,059**	136,570
Cash consideration paid to vendors for acquisitions in previous financial years	**1,356**	4,356
Less: Cash of entities acquired	**(300)**	(6,577)
Payment for purchase of controlled entities, net of cash acquired	**46,115**	134,349

Note 29 Investments in subsidiaries (continued)

Business combinations (continued)

(c) Acquisition of Medisupport S.A.

On 2 July 2015 Sonic completed the acquisition of the Swiss medical laboratory group, Medisupport S.A. The preliminary cost of the combination, values of the identifiable assets and liabilities, and goodwill arising on acquisition are detailed below:

	Total $'000
Consideration - cash paid	**320,517**
Less: Cash of entities acquired	**(19,599)**
	300,918
Deferred consideration	**20,830**
Equity consideration*	**69,836**
Total consideration	**391,584**
Fair value of identifiable net assets of subsidiaries acquired:	
Debtors & other receivables	**37,289**
Prepayments	**2,135**
Inventory	**2,651**
Property, plant & equipment	**24,456**
Identifiable intangibles	**1,068**
Other financial assets	**602**
Trade payables	**(11,188)**
Sundry creditors & accruals	**(8,724)**
Borrowings	**(33,319)**
Provisions	**(3,207)**
Current tax liabilities	**(7,636)**
Deferred tax liabilities	**(623)**
	3,504
Goodwill	**388,080**

* The minimum number of Sonic ordinary shares to be issued is 3,559,452. The number of Sonic shares to be issued may increase if the volume weighted average price of trading of Sonic shares over the five trading days commencing on 30th September 2015 is less than $19.62 per share. The shares will be issued on 7th October 2015. The shares will be subject to a 12 month escrow.

The goodwill arising from the business combination is attributable to their reputation in the local market, the benefit of marginal profit and synergies expected to be achieved from integrating the business with existing operations, expected revenue growth, future market development, the assembled workforce and knowledge of local markets. These benefits are not able to be individually identified or recognised separately from goodwill. None of the purchased goodwill recognised is expected to be deductible for income tax purposes.

The preliminary fair value of acquired debtors and other receivables is $37,289,000. The gross contractual amount due is $41,577,000 of which $4,288,000 is expected to be uncollectable.

As the date of the business combination was after the year end, the financial impact of this transaction was not recognised as at 30 June 2015.

Note 30 Commitments for expenditure

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
(a) Capital commitments		
Commitments for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities, payable:		
Within one year	**144,467**	20,177
Later than one year but not later than 5 years	**3,334**	3,714
	147,801	23,891

In addition a binding agreement to acquire the Swiss medical laboratory group, Medisupport S.A., was signed prior to 30 June 2015. Details of the acquisition, which was completed subsequent to the year end, can be found in Note 29.

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
(b) Lease commitments		
Commitments in relation to leases contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities, payable:		
Within one year	**243,307**	210,336
Later than one year but not later than 5 years	**479,844**	388,612
Later than 5 years	**197,739**	100,424
	920,890	699,372
Representing:		
Cancellable operating leases	**1,700**	1,635
Non-cancellable operating leases	**919,068**	697,566
Future finance charges on finance leases	**122**	171
	920,890	699,372

(i) Operating leases

The Group leases various premises under non-cancellable operating leases expiring within one month to twenty years. The leases have varying terms and renewal rights. On renewal, the terms of the leases are renegotiated.

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Commitments for minimum lease payments in relation to non-cancellable operating leases are payable as follows:		
Within one year	**242,339**	209,213
Later than one year but not later than 5 years	**478,990**	387,929
Later than 5 years	**197,739**	100,424
Commitments not recognised in the financial statements	**919,068**	697,566
Future minimum lease payments expected to be received in relation to non-cancellable sub-leases of operating leases not recognised in the financial statements	**37,621**	44,904

Note 30 Commitments for expenditure (continued)

(b) Lease commitments (continued)

(i) Operating leases (continued)
The Group also leases various plant and machinery under cancellable operating leases. The Group is generally required to give six months notice for termination of these leases.

	Consolidated Group	
	2015	2014
	$'000	$'000
Commitments for minimum lease payments in relation to cancellable operating leases are payable as follows:		
Within one year	**920**	1,040
Later than one year but not later than 5 years	**780**	595
Commitments not recognised in the financial statements	**1,700**	1,635

(ii) Finance leases
The Group finance leases various plant and equipment with a carrying amount of $2,117,000 (2014: $1,496,000) under contracts expiring within two months to six years.

Within one year	**682**	749
Later than one year but not later than 5 years	**919**	805
Later than 5 years	**30**	-
Minimum lease payments	**1,631**	1,554
Less: Future finance charges	**(122)**	(171)
Total lease liabilities	**1,509**	1,383
Representing lease liabilities:		
Current (Note 17)	**634**	666
Non-current (Note 22)	**875**	717
	1,509	1,383
The present value of finance lease liabilities is as follows:		
Within one year	**634**	666
Later than one year but not later than 5 years	**845**	717
Later than 5 years	**30**	-
Minimum lease payments	**1,509**	1,383

The weighted average interest rate implicit in the contracts is 2.40% (2014: 4.81%).

Note 31 Contingent liabilities

Sonic Healthcare Limited and certain subsidiaries, as disclosed in Note 29, are parties to a deed of cross guarantee under which each company guarantees the debts of the others.

The Group has provided guarantees in respect of workers compensation insurance of $22,565,000 (2014: $20,326,000) and for the performance of certain contracts by subsidiary entities. It is not expected that these guarantees will be called upon.

Note 32 Secured borrowings

The total secured liabilities (current and non-current) are as follows:

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Bank loans	**290**	580
Lease liabilities	**1,509**	1,383
	1,799	1,963

Assets pledged as security
The bank loan of the Bioscientia Healthcare Group of $290,000 (2014: $580,000) is secured by the equipment acquired with the loan proceeds. This secured loan was in existence at the time Sonic acquired the group and the security will remain until the loan is repaid. Refer Note 17(a).

Lease liabilities are effectively secured as the rights to the relevant assets revert to the lessor/lender in the event of default.

The carrying amounts of assets pledged as security for current and non-current borrowings are:

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Non-current		
Finance lease & hire purchase agreements		
Property, plant and equipment	**2,208**	1,622
Fixed and floating charge		
Property, plant and equipment	**250**	358
Total assets pledged as security	**2,458**	1,980

Note 33 Remuneration of auditors

	Consolidated Group 2015 $	2014 $
During the year the auditors of the Group and their related practices earned the following remuneration:		
PricewaterhouseCoopers – Australian firm		
Audit and review of financial reports of Group entities	**710,125**	655,304
Taxation and accounting services	**20,000**	98,965
Total audit, taxation and accounting services	**730,125**	754,269
Related practices of PricewaterhouseCoopers Australian firm (including overseas PricewaterhouseCoopers firms)		
Audit and review of the financial reports of Group entities	**1,189,017**	1,104,255
Taxation and accounting services	**97,975**	-
Total audit, taxation and accounting services	**1,286,992**	1,104,255

The non-audit services provided are not considered to be of a nature which could give rise to a conflict of interest or loss of independence for the external auditors.

Note 34 Share based payments

Share based payments relating to remuneration

The Group has several equity-settled share based compensation plans for executives and employees. The fair value of equity remuneration granted under the various plans is recognised as an expense with a corresponding increase in equity. The fair value is measured at grant date and recognised over the period during which the employees become unconditionally entitled to shares and options ("the vesting period"). Details of the pricing model and the measurement inputs utilised to determine the fair value of shares and options granted are disclosed in Note 1(q) to the financial statements.

(i) Sonic Healthcare Limited Employee Option Plan

Options are granted under the Sonic Healthcare Limited Employee Option Plan for no consideration. Options granted are able to be exercised subject to the following vesting periods unless otherwise specified:

- Up to 50% may be exercised after 30 months from the date of grant
- Up to 75% may be exercised after 42 months from the date of grant
- Up to 100% may be exercised after 54 months from the date of grant

Options granted under the plan expire after 58 months and carry no dividend or voting rights. When exercisable, each option is convertible into one ordinary share. No option holder has any right under the options to participate in any other share issue of the Company or of any other entity.

The grants of options on 7 March 2012, 2 July 2012, 18 October 2013 and 13 December 2013 are subject to different vesting and expiry periods. For the options granted on 7 March 2012 up to 500,000 options were exercisable from 7 March 2015 until expiry on 7 March 2017. Up to a further 1,000,000 options are exercisable from 7 March 2017 until expiry on 7 March 2019. Options granted on 2 July 2012 which satisfy the vesting conditions will be exercisable from 2 July 2017 until expiry on 2 July 2019. Options granted on 18 October 2013 which satisfy the vesting conditions will be exercisable from 18 October 2016 until expiry on 18 October 2018. For the options granted on 13 December 2013 up to 600,000 options are exercisable from 13 December 2016 until expiry on 13 December 2018.

Executive Long Term Incentives

Under Long Term Incentive ('LTI') arrangements for Dr C.S. Goldschmidt and C.D. Wilks 4,348,571 options and 472,440 performance rights were granted on 18 November 2011 for incentives through to the end of the 2016 year (the "2011 Issue").

The LTI options and performance rights vest and expire as follows (subject to performance conditions):

% of total	Earliest Vesting Date*	Performance conditions measurement period	Expiry date
Up to 30%	18 November 2014	3 years to 30 June 2014	18 November 2016
Up to 30%	18 November 2015	4 years to 30 June 2015	18 November 2017
Up to 40%	18 November 2016	5 years to 30 June 2016	18 November 2018

* Options can only vest when the market price of Sonic shares is higher than the exercise price.

There are two separate performance conditions to be applied with a 50% weighting for each (that is, 50% of the options and 50% of the performance rights are subject to the first performance condition, and the other 50% of each are subject to the second performance condition).

After approval by shareholders at the 2014 AGM, Dr C.S. Goldschmidt and C.D. Wilks were granted 706,108 options and 100,085 performance rights on 27 November 2014 (the "2014 Issue"). The options and performance rights will vest three years from grant date, if performance conditions are met over the period of three years to 30 June 2017. There are three separate performance conditions to be applied with a 50% weighting for Performance Condition 1 and 25% for Performance Conditions 2 and 3.

Note 34 Share based payments (continued)

Share based payments relating to remuneration (continued)

(i) Sonic Healthcare Limited Employee Option Plan (continued)

Executive Long Term Incentives (continued)

Performance Condition 1 ("PC1") — Sonic's Total Shareholder Return ("TSR") against the S&P ASX 100 Accumulation Index, excluding Banks and Resource companies
50% weighting (all Issues)

TSR Ranking achieved	Percentage of Options and Rights that vest
Below the 51st (2011 Issue: 50th) percentile	Nil options and rights to which PC1 applies
51st (2011 Issue: 50th) percentile	50% of options and rights to which PC1 applies
Greater than 51st (2011 Issue: 50th) and less than 75th percentile	Pro rata between 50% and 100% of options and rights for which PC1 applies
75th percentile and above	100% of options and rights to which PC1 applies

Under PC1, Sonic's performance is ranked by percentile according to its TSR against the TSRs of the component companies of the reference group (being the S&P ASX 100 Accumulation Index, excluding Bank and Resource companies) over the relevant performance periods.

For the performance period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2014 Sonic achieved a TSR percentile rank of 67%, and therefore 84% of the relevant options (584,406) and performance rights (59,527) vested. The remaining 86,123 options and 11,339 performance rights for this performance period were forfeited.

For the performance period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2015 Sonic achieved a TSR percentile rate of 76%, and therefore 100% of the relevant options (651,126) and performance rights (70,866) will be eligible for vesting on 18 November 2015.

Performance Condition 2 ("PC2") – Compound Average Growth Rate ("CAGR") in Return on Invested Capital ("ROIC")
Weighting: 2011 Issue: 50%, 2014 Issue: 25%

CAGR ROIC achieved	Percentage of Options and Rights that vest
Less than 1.08% (2011 Issue: 3%) p.a.	Nil options and rights to which PC2 applies
1.08% (2011 Issue: 3%) p.a.	50% (2011 issue: 30%) of options and rights to which PC2 applies
Greater than 1.08% and less than 3% (2011 Issue: 3% and 9%)	Pro rata between 50% (2011 Issue: 30%) and 100% of options and rights to which PC2 applies
3% (2011 Issue: 9%) or greater	100% of options and rights to which PC2 applies

ROIC is calculated as Earnings before Interest and Tax ("EBIT") less related tax and minority interests divided by capital employed. It is expressed as a percentage and the hurdle growth rates are growth in this percentage.

For the performance period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2014 the minimum hurdle for PC2 was not met therefore all 670,529 options and 70,866 performance rights were forfeited. The actual CAGR of ROIC over the performance period was 1.11%.

For the performance period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2015 the minimum hurdle for PC2 was not met therefore all 651,124 options and 70,866 performance rights have been forfeited. The actual CAGR over the performance period was (5.2)%.

Performance Condition 3 ("PC3") – Compound Average Growth Rate ("CAGR") in Earnings Per Share ("EPS")
Weighting: 2011 issue: 0%, 2014 issue: 25%

CAGR EPS	Percentage of Options and Rights that vest
Less than 4% p.a.	Nil options and rights to which PC3 applies
4% p.a.	40% of options and rights to which PC3 applies
Greater than 4% and less than 10% p.a.	Pro rata between 40% and 100% of options and rights to which PC3 applies
10% p.a. or greater	100% of options and rights to which PC3 applies

Note 34 Share based payments (continued)

Share based payments relating to remuneration (continued)

(i) Sonic Healthcare Limited Employee Option Plan (continued)

Executive Long Term Incentives (continued)

Options and performance rights for which the performance conditions are not satisfied are forfeited immediately after the performance measurement is finalised. There is no retesting.

Should one of the executives cease employment with the Group prior to vesting of some or all of their LTI, the Board will have discretion based on whether the executive is judged to be a "good leaver" to enable the executive to retain the portion of the LTI which vests (subject to the performance conditions) within two years of cessation of employment. To be judged a "good leaver" the executive would need to provide sufficient notice, assist with succession planning and transition and make themselves reasonably available to assist/answer queries of their replacement for a period post employment. Cessation of employment in all other circumstances will trigger forfeiture of all unvested entitlements.

If a takeover bid or other public proposal is made for voting shares in the Company which the Board reasonably believes is likely to lead to a change of control:

- For 2011 Issue:
  - Within three years from grant – only options and rights with an earliest vesting date 3 years from grant would vest.
  - Within the fourth year from grant – only options and rights with an earliest vesting date within 4 years from grant not previously forfeited would vest.
  - Within the fifth year of grant – all options and rights not previously forfeited would vest.

- For 2014 Issue:
  - Unvested options and rights may vest at the Board's discretion, having regard to pro rata performance and the circumstances leading to the potential change of control.

Sonic Healthcare ordinary shares to be awarded on exercise/conversion of the options and performance rights may be satisfied by the issue of new shares or the purchase of shares on-market.

Note 34 Share based payments (continued)

Share based payments relating to remuneration (continued)

(i) Sonic Healthcare Limited Employee Option Plan (continued)

Set out below are summaries of options granted under the plan.

Grant date	Expiry date	Exercise price	Balance at start of the year	Granted during the year	Forfeited during the year	Exercised during the year	Expired during the year	Balance at end of the year	Exercis-able at end of the year	Balance at date of this report
			Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Consolidated Group - 2015										
10/06/10	10/04/15	$10.57	307,500	-	-	(307,500)	-	-	-	-
03/03/11	03/01/16	$11.13	315,000	-	-	(72,500)	-	242,500	157,500	217,500
18/11/11	18/11/16	$11.43	1,341,058	-	(756,652)	-	-	584,406	584,406	584,406
18/11/11	18/11/17	$11.43	1,302,250	-	-	-	-	1,302,250	-	651,126
18/11/11	18/11/18	$11.43	1,705,263	-	-	-	-	1,705,263	-	1,705,263
20/02/12	20/12/16	$11.14	600,000	-	-	(300,000)	-	300,000	-	150,000
07/03/12	07/03/17	$11.14	500,000	-	-	(500,000)	-	-	-	-
07/03/12	07/03/19	$11.14	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
02/07/12	02/07/19	$12.57	125,000	-	-	-	-	125,000	-	125,000
18/10/13	18/10/18	$15.43	400,000	-	(65,000)	-	-	335,000	-	320,000
13/12/13	13/12/18	$15.21	600,000	-	-	-	-	600,000	-	600,000
27/11/14	27/11/19	$17.32	-	706,108	-	-	-	706,108	-	706,108
30/01/15	30/11/19	$18.84	-	1,000,000	-	-	-	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Total			8,196,071	1,706,108	(821,652)	(1,180,000)	-	7,900,527	741,906	7,059,403
Weighted average exercise price			$11.80	$18.21	$11.75	$10.99	-	$13.31	$11.37	

Grant date	Expiry date	Exercise price	Balance at start of the year	Granted during the year	Forfeited during the year	Exercised during the year	Expired during the year	Balance at end of the year	Exercis-able at end of the year
			Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Consolidated Group - 2014									
21/11/08	22/11/13	$12.98	1,068,375	-	-	(1,068,375)	-	-	-
27/03/09	27/01/14	$11.10	787,500	-	-	(787,500)	-	-	-
10/06/10	10/04/15	$10.57	540,000	-	-	(232,500)	-	307,500	57,500
03/03/11	03/01/16	$11.13	340,000	-	-	(25,000)	-	315,000	145,000
18/11/11	18/11/16	$11.43	1,341,058	-	-	-	-	1,341,058	-
18/11/11	18/11/17	$11.43	1,302,250	-	-	-	-	1,302,250	-
18/11/11	18/11/18	$11.43	1,705,263	-	-	-	-	1,705,263	-
20/02/12	20/12/16	$11.14	600,000	-	-	-	-	600,000	-
07/03/12	07/03/17	$11.14	500,000	-	-	-	-	500,000	-
07/03/12	07/03/19	$11.14	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	1,000,000	-
02/07/12	02/07/19	$12.57	300,000	-	(175,000)	-	-	125,000	-
09/08/13	09/08/20	$14.50	-	100,000	(100,000)	-	-	-	-
18/10/13	18/10/18	$15.43	-	400,000	-	-	-	400,000	-
13/12/13	13/12/18	$15.21	-	600,000	-	-	-	600,000	-
13/12/13	13/12/20	$15.21	-	100,000	(100,000)	-	-	-	-
Total			9,484,446	1,200,000	(375,000)	(2,113,375)	-	8,196,071	202,500
Weighted average exercise price			$11.49	$15.22	$13.79	$11.99	-	$11.80	$10.97

The weighted average share price at the date of exercise for options exercised in the 2015 year was $18.11 (2014: $15.87). The weighted average remaining contractual life of share options on issue at the end of the year was 3.2 years (2014: 3.5 years).

Fair value of options granted
The average assessed fair value of options granted during the year ended 30 June 2015 was $1.38 per option (2014: $1.60).

Note 34 Share based payments (continued)

Share based payments relating to remuneration (continued)

(i) Sonic Healthcare Limited Employee Option Plan (continued)
The valuation model inputs for options granted during the years ending 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2014 include:

Grant date	Expiry date	Exercise price	Share price at time of grant	Expected life (years from date of issue)	Share price volatility (based on 3 year historic prices)	Risk free rate	Dividend yield
09/08/13	09/08/20	$14.50	$14.50	6.0	19.2%	3.2%	5.0%
18/10/13	18/10/18	$15.43	$15.43	4.3	18.9%	3.2%	4.8%
13/12/13	13/12/18	$15.21	$15.21	4.0	18.4%	3.2%	4.7%
13/12/13	13/12/20	$15.21	$15.21	6.0	18.4%	3.7%	4.7%
27/11/14	27/11/19	$17.32	$17.32	4.0	16.4%	2.7%	4.4%
30/01/15	30/11/19	$18.84	$18.84	4.2	16.0%	2.0%	4.4%

(ii) Executive Incentive Plan
Executive Incentive Plan options (which related to remuneration for periods prior to 30 June 2008) expired 60 months after issue and were able to be exercised subject to the following vesting periods:

- Up to 50% could be exercised after 24 months from the date of issue
- Up to 100% could be exercised after 36 months from the date of issue

A summary of options granted under this plan is set out below:

Grant date	Expiry date	Exercise price	Balance at start of the year	Granted during the year	Forfeited during the year	Exercised during the year	Expired during the year	Balance at end of the year	Exercis-able at end of the year
			Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Consolidated Group - 2014									
22/08/08	22/08/13	$7.50	1,540,000	-	-	(1,540,000)	-	-	-

The weighted average share price at the date of exercise for options exercised in the 12 months to 30 June 2014 was $15.67.

(iii) Sonic Healthcare Limited Performance Rights Plan
Performance rights are granted under the Sonic Healthcare Limited Performance Rights Plan for no consideration and carry no dividend or voting rights. When exercisable, each performance right is convertible into one ordinary share. No rights holder has any right to participate in any other share issue of the Company or of any other entity.

The performance rights granted on 18 November 2011 and 27 November 2014 relate to the Long Term Incentives for Dr C.S. Goldschmidt and C.D. Wilks. The vesting conditions attached to the performance rights are detailed in Note 34(a)(i).

Note 34 Share based payments (continued)

Share based payments relating to remuneration (continued)

(iii) Sonic Healthcare Limited Performance Rights Plan (continued)

Grant date	Expiry date	Exercise price	Balance at start of the year	Granted during the year	Forfeited during the year	Exercised during the year	Expired during the year	Balance at end of the year	Exercis-able at end of the year	Balance at date of this report
Consolidated Group - 2015										
18/11/11	18/11/16	Nil	141,732	-	(82,205)	-	-	59,527	59,527	-
18/11/11	18/11/17	Nil	141,732	-	-	-	-	141,732	-	70,866
18/11/11	18/11/18	Nil	188,976	-	-	-	-	188,976	-	188,976
03/11/14	01/10/15	Nil	-	1,593	-	(1,593)	-	-	-	-
27/11/14	27/11/19	Nil	-	100,085	-	-	-	100,085	-	100,085
Total			472,440	101,678	(82,205)	(1,593)	-	490,320	59,527	359,927
Consolidated Group - 2014										
18/11/11	18/11/16	Nil	141,732	-	-	-	-	141,732	-	
18/11/11	18/11/17	Nil	141,732	-	-	-	-	141,732	-	
18/11/11	18/11/18	Nil	188,976	-	-	-	-	188,976	-	
Total			472,440	-	-	-	-	472,440	-	

The weighted average remaining contractual life of performance rights on issue at the end of the year was 2.7 years (2014: 3.5 years).

(iv) Expenses arising from share based payment transactions

Total expenses arising from equity-settled share based payment transactions recognised during the period as part of employee benefit expense were as follows:

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	Consolidated Group 2014 $'000
Equity remuneration	**2,039**	2,559

(v) Shares issued on the exercise of options up to the date of this report

(a) Sonic Healthcare Limited Employee Option Plan options

A total of 1,180,000 ordinary shares of Sonic were issued during the year ended 30 June 2015 under the Sonic Healthcare Limited Employee Option Plan. 162,500 options have been exercised since that date, but prior to the date of this report, resulting in the issue of 162,500 ordinary shares. The amounts paid on issue of those shares were:

Number of Options	Amounts paid (per share)
307,500	$10.57
950,000	$11.14
85,000	$11.13
1,342,500	

(b) Sonic Healthcare Limited Performance Rights Plan

A total of 1,593 performance rights were exercised during the year ended 30 June 2015 under the Sonic Healthcare Limited Performance Rights Plan and satisfied by an on-market share purchase. 59,527 performance rights have been exercised since that date, but prior to the date of this report, resulting in the issue of 59,527 ordinary shares. No amounts were payable on issue of those shares.

(vi) Options and rights granted to officers

During the year nil options or rights were issued to the five highest remunerated officers of the Company and the Group who are not already disclosed as key management personnel.

Note 35 Related parties

(a) Parent entities and subsidiaries

Sonic Healthcare Limited is the ultimate Parent Company in the Group comprising the Company and its subsidiaries as detailed in Note 29.

(b) Key management personnel compensation

Details of remuneration of key management personnel and transactions with them have been disclosed in the Remuneration Report within the Directors' Report. The aggregate remuneration of the key management personnel is shown below:

	Consolidated Group	
	2015	2014
	$	$
Short term employee benefits	**6,131,778**	6,083,979
Long term employee benefits	**57,869**	260,044
Post employment benefits	**157,811**	148,695
Share based payments	**544,155**	906,179
	6,891,613	7,398,897

Note 36 Earnings per share

	Consolidated Group	
	2015	2014
	Cents	Cents
Basic earnings per share	**86.6**	96.2
Diluted earnings per share	**86.0**	95.5

	2015	2014
	Shares	Shares
Weighted average number of ordinary shares used as the denominator		
Weighted average number of ordinary shares used as the denominator in calculating basic earnings per share	**401,419,782**	400,128,497
Weighted average number of ordinary shares and potential ordinary shares used as the denominator in calculating diluted earnings per share	**404,380,891**	403,180,026

Options and performance rights over ordinary shares are considered to be potential ordinary shares and have been included in the determination of diluted earnings per share to the extent to which they are dilutive. The options and rights have not been included in the determination of basic earnings per share.

Details of the options and rights exercised, forfeited and issued in the period between the reporting date and the date of this report are detailed in Note 34.

	Consolidated Group	
	2015	2014
	$'000	$'000
Reconciliations of earnings used in calculating earnings per share		
Net profit	**354,037**	388,860
Net (profit) attributable to minority interests	**(6,339)**	(3,876)
Earnings used in calculating basic and diluted earnings per share	**347,698**	384,984

Note 37 Statement of cash flows

	Consolidated Group 2015 $'000	2014 $'000
(a) Cash at bank and on hand	**249,393**	232,137

Cash balances bear floating interest rates of between 0.01% - 2.66% (2014: 0.01% - 2.68%).

(b) Reconciliation of net cash inflow from operating activities to operating profit after income tax

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Operating profit after income tax	**354,037**	388,860
Add non-cash items	**181,025**	141,656
Add/(less) changes in assets and liabilities during the financial year:		
(Increase)/decrease in sundry debtors and prepayments	**(10,232)**	(3,762)
(Increase)/decrease in trade debtors and accrued revenue	**(33,403)**	(16,557)
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	**(7,448)**	(1,325)
(Increase)/decrease in deferred tax assets	**1,171**	584
Increase/(decrease) in trade creditors and accrued expenses	**30,179**	22,325
Increase/(decrease) in deferred tax liabilities	**12,514**	16,991
Increase/(decrease) in current tax liabilities	**(32,467)**	(3,596)
Increase/(decrease) in other provisions	**1,744**	(851)
Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	**7,142**	(373)
Increase/(decrease) in provision for employee entitlements	**7,822**	12,406
Net cash inflow from operating activities	**512,084**	556,358

(c) Non-cash financing and investing activities

The following non-cash financing and investing activities occurred during the year and are not reflected in the Cash Flow Statement:

- Plant and equipment with an aggregate fair value of $849,000 (2014: $740,000) was acquired by means of finance leases.

Note 38 Financial risk management

The Group is exposed to the following categories of financial risks as part of its overall capital structure; market risk (including currency risk and interest rate risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. The Group's risk management program addresses the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Group.

The Group has adopted the following philosophies towards financial risk management:

- to take a proactive approach in identifying and managing material treasury risks;
- not to take speculative derivative positions;
- to structure hedging to reflect underlying business objectives;
- to reduce volatility and provide more certainty of earnings.

Financial risk management is carried out by a central treasury department (Group Treasury) which identifies, evaluates and hedges financial risks to support the Group's strategic and operational objectives. Group Treasury operates within the parameters of a Board approved Treasury Policy. The Treasury Policy provides written principles for overall financial risk management as well as policies covering specific areas, such as liquidity, funding and interest rate risk, foreign exchange risk, credit risk, and operational treasury risk. One of the key responsibilities of Group Treasury is the management of the Group's debt facilities.

Note 38 Financial risk management (continued)

(a) Capital risk management

The Group's objectives when managing capital are to safeguard the consolidated entity's ability to continue as a going concern so that it can continue to provide returns for shareholders and benefits for other stakeholders and to maintain an optimal capital structure to reduce the cost of capital.

The capital structure of the Group is proactively managed by issuing new shares by way of institutional placements, shareholder purchase plans, rights issues, as part consideration for acquisitions, or activation from time to time of the Company's Dividend Reinvestment Plan; by utilising the SHEST to buy Sonic's shares on market; or by varying the amount of dividends paid to shareholders.

The capital structure of the Group is mainly monitored on the basis of the Net Debt to Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation ("EBITDA") Ratio, which is also a covenant under Sonic's bank debt facilities (with a maximum permitted level of 3.5 times). Other ratios considered are the Gearing Ratio and Interest Cover Ratio, which are also covenants under debt facilities. Future compliance with these debt covenants is modelled by reference to a rolling 5 year financial forecast model.

During 2015 and 2014 the Group maintained a Net Debt to EBITDA ratio of between 2.3 to 2.7 times, however short term spikes above these levels are considered to accommodate significant business acquisitions. The Company's history demonstrates Net Debt to EBITDA being conservatively and consistently managed around the middle of a 2 to 3 times range.

The Net Debt to EBITDA ratio is calculated as Net (of cash) Interest Bearing Debt divided by EBITDA. EBITDA is normalised for acquisitions made during a period, equity remuneration expense (a non-cash item) and for acquisition-related costs which are expensed under AASB 3 *Business Combinations*. Net Interest Bearing Debt is adjusted for currency rate fluctuations.

The Gearing Ratio is calculated as Net Interest Bearing Debt divided by Net Interest Bearing Debt plus Equity (per the Balance Sheet), and must be maintained below 55% under the Company's USPP note agreements. The Gearing Ratio is no longer a covenant under the Company's bank debt facilities.

The Group is required to maintain an Interest Cover Ratio greater than 3.25 under the debt facilities, calculated as EBITA divided by Net Interest Expense. EBITA is normalised for equity remuneration expense and acquisition-related costs.

These three ratios are the only financial undertakings under Sonic's debt facilities.

The ratios calculated using the facility definitions at 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2014 were as follows:

	2015	2014
Net Debt to EBITDA (times)	**2.68**	2.38
Gearing	**37.3%**	35.9%
Interest Cover (times)	**10.79**	10.67

(b) Market risk

(i) Foreign currency risk

Foreign currency risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial commitment, recognised asset or liability will fluctuate due to changes in foreign currency rates.

Foreign currency risk arising on the translation of the net assets of the Group's foreign controlled entities, which have a different functional currency, is managed at the Group level. The Group manages this foreign exchange translation risk by "natural" balance sheet hedges, i.e. having borrowings denominated in the same functional currencies of the foreign controlled entities. The foreign currency gains or losses arising from this risk are recorded through the foreign currency translation reserve. As Sonic's foreign currency earnings grow and debt is repaid, the natural hedge becomes less effective, so AUD reported earnings do fluctuate. The underlying earnings in foreign currency however are not affected. Capital hedging is not undertaken given the cash flow implications of ongoing hedging and the long term nature of investments.

The Group is not significantly exposed to transactional foreign currency risk associated with receipts and payments that are required to be settled in foreign currencies. These transactions are limited in number; therefore the exposure is typically identified and managed on a case by case basis, usually by the spot or forward purchase of foreign currencies.

Note 38 Financial risk management (continued)

(b) Market risk (continued)

(i) Foreign currency risk (continued)
The carrying amount of the Group's bank loans and USPP notes are denominated in the following currencies:

	Consolidated Group	
	2015	2014
	$'000	$'000
AUD	**41,000**	-
USD	**1,117,481**	917,166
EURO	**966,633**	969,729
GBP	**97,979**	81,640
	2,223,093	1,968,535

Hedge of net investments in foreign operations
Of the total bank loans and USPP notes of $2,223,093,000 (2014: $1,968,535,000), $966,343,000 (2014: $969,149,000) are denominated in EURO and qualify as a hedge, as per accounting standards, of the Group's net investment in operations in Germany and Belgium. In addition $29,858,000 (2014: $28,635,000) are denominated in USD and qualify as a hedge of the Group's net investment in operations in the United States. Gains or losses on retranslation of these borrowings are transferred to equity to offset any gains or losses on translation of the net investment in these operations. The ineffectiveness recognised in the Income Statement from net investment hedges was $nil (2014: $nil).

The remaining bank loans and USPP notes of $1,185,892,000 (2014: $970,751,000) denominated in USD, EURO and GBP are in the same functional currencies as Sonic's operations in the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom and act as a "natural" balance sheet hedge against foreign currency earnings fluctuations.

Sensitivity analysis
Based on the financial instruments held at 30 June 2015, had the Australian dollar weakened/strengthened by 10% (2014: 10%) against all relevant currencies, the Group's post-tax profit would have been $nil higher/$nil lower (2014: $nil higher/$nil lower), as a result of having minimal exposure to foreign currency denominated financial instruments. Other components of equity would have been $nil lower/higher (2014: $nil lower/higher).

(ii) Interest rate risk
Sonic Healthcare Limited and certain subsidiaries are parties to derivative financial instruments such as interest rate swaps in the normal course of business in order to hedge exposure to fluctuations in interest rates. Derivatives are exclusively used for hedging purposes i.e. not as trading or speculative instruments. The Group's non-hedged fixed rate borrowings are carried at amortised cost. They are therefore not subject to interest rate risk as defined in AASB 7.

Interest rate swap contracts – cash flow hedge
The Group's main interest rate risk arises from bank loans that are subject to variable interest rates. It is the Group's policy to protect part of the variable interest rate loans drawn under its debt facilities (relevant loans totalling 2015: $1,414,470,000; 2014: $1,437,676,000) from exposure to increasing interest rates.

The Group's policy is to ensure exposure to increases in floating interest rates does not impact annual net profit after tax over a 3 year period by more than a specified percentage as defined within the hedging parameters of the Group's Treasury Policy, and will not result in a breach of the Interest Cover Ratio covenant under the Group's debt facilities. Hedging is undertaken as and when required to ensure exposure to interest rate risk is managed within these parameters. Accordingly, the Group has entered into fixed rate debt (USPP notes), and in the past has entered into interest rate swap contracts under which it is obliged to receive interest at variable rates and to pay interest at fixed rates.

There were no fixed interest rate swaps in place at balance sheet date. In the prior year swaps covered approximately 3% of the Sonic senior variable rate bank debt outstanding. The fixed interest rate range was between 1.47% and 1.50% and the variable interest rate range between 0.24% and 0.32%.

There was no ineffective portion of the swaps during either the current or previous financial year.

Note 38 Financial risk management (continued)

(b) Market risk (continued)

(ii) Interest rate risk (continued)

Interest rate swap contracts – fair value hedge
The Group's strategy is to minimise interest expense and ensure exposure to movements in market interest rates are managed in line with the Treasury Policy. The Group has entered into interest rate swap contracts under which it is obliged to receive interest at fixed rates and to pay interest at variable rates. The contracts are settled on a net basis. Swap contracts have been entered into in the currency of the underlying debt of USD. The contracts require settlement of net interest receivable or payable on a half yearly basis. All interest rate swap contracts have settlement dates which coincide with the dates on which interest is payable on the underlying debt. Swaps in place at the balance sheet date cover approximately 40% (2014: 40%) of the USD fixed rate debt outstanding.

The interest rate swaps are designated as a fair value hedge of fixed rate USD debt. The nature of the hedged risk is the change in the fair value of the fixed rate USD debt attributable to movements in the USD LIBOR based market swap rate away from the market swap rate at inception on the first 5 years of interest payments.

The swap contracts (hedging instrument) and the underlying fixed rate USD debt (hedged item) have both been measured at fair value. The fair value hedge is considered highly effective with minor fair value gains/losses recorded in the Income Statement on the hedging instrument and hedged item during the current and previous year. The fair value of the hedging instruments at 30 June 2015 was $2,117,000 (2014: $4,827,000).

At 30 June, the notional principal amounts and periods of expiry of all interest rate swap contracts for the Group were as follows:

	Consolidated Group	
	2015	2014
	$'000	$'000
Less than 1 year	**259,639**	43,554
1 – 2 years	**-**	212,112
	259,639	255,666

Note 38 Financial risk management (continued)

(b) Market risk (continued)

(ii) Interest rate risk (continued)

Interest rate risk exposures
The Group's exposure to interest rate risk and the effective weighted average interest rate by maturity periods is set out in the following tables.

Consolidated Group	Notes	Fixed interest rate maturities 1 year or less $'000	Over 1 and less than 2 years $'000	Over 2 and less than 3 years $'000	Over 3 and less than 4 years $'000	Over 4 and less than 5 years $'000	Over 5 years $'000	Non-interest bearing $'000	Total $'000
30 June 2015									
Assets									
Cash and deposits	37(a)	-	-	-	-	-	-	97,327	97,327
Trade debtors	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	611,241	611,241
Accrued revenue	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	92,486	92,486
Sundry debtors	7	149	3	-	-	-	-	43,525	43,677
Amounts owing from other entities	7,10	987	3,028	-	-	-	-	7,190	11,205
Other financial assets	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	62,384	62,384
Interest rate swap receive fixed		259,639	-	-	-	-	-	-	259,639
Total assets		260,775	3,031	-	-	-	-	914,153	1,177,959
Liabilities									
Trade and other creditors	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	402,468	402,468
Amounts owing to vendors	17,21,22,25	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,100	26,100
Other liabilities	21,25	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,217	12,217
Lease liabilities	17,22	634	478	181	94	92	30	-	1,509
USPP notes	22	-	123,329	-	-	201,220	483,784	-	808,333
Bank loans	17	290	-	-	-	-	-	-	290
Total liabilities		924	123,807	181	94	201,312	483,814	440,785	1,250,917

Consolidated Group	Notes	Fixed interest rate maturities 1 year or less $'000	Over 1 and less than 2 years $'000	Over 2 and less than 3 years $'000	Over 3 and less than 4 years $'000	Over 4 and less than 5 years $'000	Over 5 years $'000	Non-interest bearing $'000	Total $'000
30 June 2014									
Assets									
Cash and deposits	37(a)	876	-	-	-	-	-	61,383	62,259
Trade debtors	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	530,666	530,666
Accrued revenue	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	66,567	66,567
Sundry debtors	7	151	2	-	-	-	-	35,591	35,744
Amounts owing from other entities	7,10	1,786	-	2,964	-	-	-	7,134	11,884
Other financial assets	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,865	67,865
Interest rate swap receive fixed		-	212,112	-	-	-	-	-	212,112
Total assets		2,813	212,114	2,964	-	-	-	769,206	987,097
Liabilities									
Trade and other creditors	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	350,071	350,071
Amounts owing to vendors	17,21,22,25	8	-	-	-	-	-	22,057	22,065
Other liabilities	21,25	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,603	5,603
Lease liabilities	17,22	666	389	241	76	11	-	-	1,383
USPP notes	22	-	-	100,753	-	-	429,526	-	530,279
Bank loans	17	290	290	-	-	-	-	-	580
Interest rate swaps pay fixed		43,554	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,554
Total liabilities		44,518	679	100,994	76	11	429,526	377,731	953,535

Note 38 Financial risk management (continued)

(b) Market risk (continued)

(ii) Interest rate risk (continued)

Consolidated Group — **Floating interest rate maturities**

30 June 2015	Notes	1 year or less $'000	Over 1 and less than 2 years $'000	Over 2 and less than 3 years $'000	Over 3 and less than 4 years $'000	Over 4 and less than 5 years $'000	Over 5 years $'000	Total $'000	Weighted average interest rate %
Assets									
Cash and deposits	37(a)	152,066	-	-	-	-	-	152,066	0.43
Amounts owing from other entities	7,10	235	3,118	-	-	5,320	-	8,673	3.69
		152,301	3,118	-	-	5,320	-	160,739	
Liabilities									
Bank loans	22	-	223,993	608,815	508,486	73,176	-	1,414,470	1.16
Amounts owing to vendors	17,22	473	307	-	-	-	-	780	2.45
Interest rate swaps pay floating		259,639	-	-	-	-	-	259,639	3.42
		260,112	224,300	608,815	508,486	73,176	-	1,674,889	

Consolidated Group — **Floating interest rate maturities**

30 June 2014	Notes	1 year or less $'000	Over 1 and less than 2 years $'000	Over 2 and less than 3 years $'000	Over 3 and less than 4 years $'000	Over 4 and less than 5 years $'000	Over 5 years $'000	Total $'000	Weighted average interest rate %
Assets									
Cash and deposits	37(a)	169,878	-	-	-	-	-	169,878	1.69
Amounts owing from other entities	7,10	-	-	2,720	-	-	-	2,720	2.85
Interest rate swaps receive floating		43,554	-	-	-	-	-	43,554	0.29
		213,432	-	2,720	-	-	-	216,152	
Liabilities									
Bank loans	17,22	448,736	354,055	72,569	372,993	189,323	-	1,437,676	1.43
Amounts owing to vendors	17,22	688	313	-	-	-	-	1,001	2.66
Interest rate swaps pay floating		-	212,112	-	-	-	-	212,112	3.40
		449,424	566,480	72,569	372,993	189,323	-	1,650,789	

Sensitivity analysis

If interest rates in all relevant currencies applied to financial instruments held at 30 June 2015 had changed by -10/+100 basis points (2014: -10/+100 basis points) for the financial year with all other variables held constant, the Group's post-tax profit for the year would have been $1,060,000/$10,599,000 higher/lower (2014: $1,004,000/$10,042,000 higher/lower) mainly as a result of lower/higher interest expense from bank loans. Other components of equity would have been $1,514,000/$14,142,000 higher/lower (2014: $1,424,000/$14,236,000 higher/lower) as a result of an increase/decrease in the fair value of the cash flow hedges relative to the decrease/increase in borrowings.

(iii) Other price risk

The Group does not have significant exposure to fluctuations in the fair values or future cash flows of financial instruments associated with changes in market prices.

Note 38 Financial risk management (continued)

(c) Credit risk

The credit risk on financial assets of the Group which have been recognised on the Balance Sheet, other than investment in shares, is generally the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment. Where entities have a right of set-off and intend to settle on a net basis, this set-off has been reflected in the financial statements in accordance with accounting standards.

The Group does not have any material exposure to any individual customer or counterparty other than certain government or statutory funded bodies in the countries in which the Group operates. There are no other significant concentrations of credit risk within the Group.

Receivable balances and ageing analysis are monitored on an ongoing basis. In order to minimise the Group's exposure to bad debts, rigorously enforced processes are in place to send reminder notices, demands for repayments and ultimately to refer to debt collection agencies. Credit limits are imposed and monitored for commercial customers.

The Group has not renegotiated any material collection/repayment terms of any financial assets in the current or previous financial year.

Credit risk in the treasury context is defined as the risk of sustaining a loss as a result of a counterparty that has accepted a deposit from the Group and/or entered into a financial transaction with the Group related to the management of treasury related risks. Group Treasury seeks to only enter into transactions with counterparties who are senior lenders to the Group.

(d) Liquidity risk

The Group is exposed to funding and liquidity risks including the risk that in refinancing its debt, the Group may be exposed to an increased credit spread (the credit spread is the margin that must be paid over the equivalent government or risk free rate or swap rate) and the risk of not being able to refinance debt obligations or meet other cash outflow obligations at a reasonable cost when required.

The Group's strong cash flows and Balance Sheet are a major mitigator of this type of risk, along with the dynamics of the medical diagnostic services market. The Group seeks to further mitigate these risks by structuring its debt with a spread of maturities, maintaining excellent relationships with a number of leading Australian and international banks, diversifying funding sources by accessing the private placement bond market in the USA, and keeping sufficient committed credit lines available for short to medium term needs (balanced against the cost of maintaining such lines) in accordance with Sonic's Treasury Policy.

The tables below analyse the Group's financial liabilities and net-settled derivative financial instruments into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period at the reporting date to the contractual maturity date. The amounts disclosed in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows including interest (other than in the "carrying value" column). The table ignores the maturities of undrawn credit lines. For interest rate swaps the cash flows have been estimated using forward interest rates applicable at the reporting date.

Note 38 Financial risk management (continued)

(d) Liquidity risk (continued)

Consolidated Group

30 June 2015	Notes	1 year or less $'000	Over 1 and less than 2 years $'000	Over 2 and less than 5 years $'000	Over 5 years $'000	Total $'000	Carrying Value $'000
Liabilities							
Trade and other creditors	16	402,468	-	-	-	402,468	402,468
Amounts owing to vendors	17,21,22,25	4,059	21,985	651	203	26,898	26,880
Bank loans	17,22	17,007	239,245	1,207,922	-	1,464,174	1,414,760
USPP notes	22	39,022	162,351	298,937	520,544	1,020,854	808,333
Other	21,25	370	1,453	4,552	5,842	12,217	12,217
Lease liabilities	17,22	682	437	482	30	1,631	1,509
Financial guarantee contracts		22,565	-	-	-	22,565	-
Total liabilities		486,173	425,471	1,512,544	526,619	2,950,807	2,666,167

Consolidated Group

30 June 2014	Notes	1 year or less $'000	Over 1 and less than 2 years $'000	Over 2 and less than 5 years $'000	Over 5 years $'000	Total $'000	Carrying Value $'000
Liabilities							
Trade and other creditors	16	350,071	-	-	-	350,071	350,071
Amounts owing to vendors	17,21,22,25	18,335	1,204	3,341	202	23,082	23,066
Bank loans	17,22	469,318	367,900	650,911	-	1,488,129	1,438,256
USPP notes	22	28,211	28,211	174,847	465,990	697,259	530,279
Other	21,25	728	1,218	2,464	1,193	5,603	5,603
Lease liabilities	17,22	749	437	368	-	1,554	1,383
Net-settled interest rate swaps	20	275	-	-	-	275	235
Financial guarantee contracts		20,326	-	-	-	20,326	-
Total liabilities		888,013	398,970	831,931	467,385	2,586,299	2,348,893

The financial guarantee contracts relate to guarantees given by the Group in respect of workers compensation insurance. The guarantees are the maximum amounts allocated to the earliest period in which the guarantees could be called. The Group does not expect these payments to eventuate.

There have been no material breaches and no defaults of loans in the current or preceding reporting periods.

(e) Net fair value of financial assets and liabilities

The net fair value of cash and cash equivalents and non-interest bearing monetary financial assets and financial liabilities of the Group approximates their carrying amounts.

The net fair value of other monetary financial assets and financial liabilities is based upon market prices where a market exists or by discounting the expected future cash flows by the current interest rates for assets and liabilities with similar risk profiles.

For non-traded equity investments, the net fair value is determined using valuation techniques (Note 1(j)).

Note 38 Financial risk management (continued)

(f) Fair values

The carrying amounts of assets and liabilities on the Consolidated Group Balance Sheet approximate their fair values.

Fair value hierarchy

AASB 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures* requires disclosure of fair value measurements by level of the following fair value measurement hierarchy:

- (i) quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identified assets or liabilities (level 1),
- (ii) inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (as prices) or indirectly (derived from prices) (level 2), and
- (iii) inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market value (unobservable inputs) (level 3).

Interest bearing debt of $259,639,000 (2014: $212,112,000) is being carried at fair value. The debt is included within level 2 of the AASB 7 hierarchy and is calculated using the present value of estimated future cash flows. The carrying value of the debt approximates the amount the Group would be contractually required to pay at maturity to the holder of the obligation. In the prior year interest rate swaps with a liability fair value of $235,000 were included within level 2 of the AASB 7 hierarchy and were calculated using the present value of estimated future cash flows.

There were no transfers between level 1 and level 2 in the period.

Note 39 Parent Company financial information

(a) Summary financial information

The individual financial statements for the Parent Company show the following aggregate amounts:

	2015 $'000	2014 $'000
Balance sheet		
Current assets	**2,238,332**	1,730,500
Total assets	**5,188,369**	4,806,849
Current liabilities	**2,453,330**	2,111,149
Total liabilities	**2,463,214**	2,119,191
Shareholders' equity		
Contributed equity	**2,603,999**	2,577,784
Reserves		
Equity remuneration reserve	**(43,678)**	(35,286)
Share option reserve	**16,427**	16,427
Retained earnings	**148,407**	128,733
	2,725,155	2,687,658
Profit or loss for the year	**296,691**	303,027
Total comprehensive income	**296,691**	303,027

Note 39 Parent Company financial information (continued)

(b) Guarantees entered into by the Parent Company

The Parent Company is a party to the deed of cross guarantee as disclosed in Note 28. No liabilities have been assumed by the Parent Company in relation to this guarantee as it is expected the parties to the deed of cross guarantee will continue to generate positive cash flows. The Parent Company has further provided guarantees of $72,985,000 (2014: $52,746,000) in respect of property leases and workers compensation insurance for subsidiary entities. In addition the Parent Company has provided guarantees of the performance of certain contracts by subsidiary entities. No liability was recognised by the Parent Company or the Consolidated Group in relation to these guarantees, as their fair values are immaterial.

(c) Contingent liabilities of the Parent Company

The Parent Company did not have any contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2015 or 30 June 2014.

(d) Contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant or equipment

The Parent Company has contractual commitments of $69,422,000 for the construction of buildings in Queensland. The Parent Company did not have any other contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant or equipment as at 30 June 2015.

Note 40 Events occurring after reporting date

Since the end of the financial year, the Directors are not aware of any matter or circumstance not otherwise dealt with in these financial statements that has significantly or may significantly affect the operations of the Group, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Group in subsequent financial years, other than:

- the acquisitions of the Swiss medical laboratory group, Medisupport S.A. and the Belgian based KLD laboratory as described in Sonic’s announcements to the market dated 15 June and 6 July 2015; and
- as announced to the market on 14 August 2015, the new provincial government of Alberta decided not to proceed with the laboratory services contract for which Sonic had been chosen as the preferred proponent.

Directors' Declaration

For the year ended 30 June 2015

In the Directors' opinion:

(a) the financial statements and Notes set out on pages 55 to 124 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
   (i) complying with Accounting Standards, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
   (ii) giving a true and fair view of the Group's financial position as at 30 June 2015 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and

(b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and

(c) at the date of this declaration, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the members of the Extended Closed Group identified in Note 29 will be able to meet any obligations or liabilities to which they are, or may become, subject by virtue of the deed of cross guarantee described in Note 28.

Note 1(a) confirms that the financial statements also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

The Directors have been given the declarations by the Managing Director and Finance Director required by section 295A of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.

Dr C.S. Goldschmidt
Director

C.D. Wilks
Director

Sydney
24 September 2015

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Sonic Healthcare Limited

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying Financial Report of Sonic Healthcare Limited (the Company), which comprises the consolidated Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2015, the consolidated Income Statement and consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income, consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity and consolidated Cash Flow Statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Directors' Declaration for Sonic Healthcare (the consolidated entity). The consolidated entity comprises the Company and the entities it controlled at year's end or from time to time during the financial year.

Directors' responsibility for the Financial Report

The Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the Financial Report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the Financial Report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In Note 1, the Directors also state, in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, that the financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Financial Report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the Financial Report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Financial Report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the consolidated entity's preparation and fair presentation of the Financial Report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Financial Report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

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Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Sonic Healthcare Limited (continued)

Auditor's opinion

In our opinion:

(a) the Financial Report of Sonic Healthcare Limited is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

  (i) giving a true and fair view of the consolidated entity's financial position as at 30 June 2015 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and

  (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

(b) the Financial Report and notes also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards as disclosed in Note 1.

Report on the Remuneration Report

We have audited the Remuneration Report included in pages 30 to 41 of the Directors' Report for the year ended 30 June 2015. The Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Remuneration Report in accordance with section 300A of the *Corporations Act 2001*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Remuneration Report, based on our audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

Auditor's opinion

In our opinion, the Remuneration Report of Sonic Healthcare Limited for the year ended 30 June 2015 complies with section 300A of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Mark Dow
Partner

Sydney
24 September 2015

Shareholders' Information

1. Information relating to shareholders

(a) Distribution schedule as at 15 September 2015

	No. of holders ordinary shares
1 – 1,000	34,002
1,001 – 5,000	23,463
5,001 – 10,000	1,923
10,001 – 100,000	896
100,001 and over	108
	60,392
Voting rights – on a show of hands	1/member
– on a poll	1/share
Percentage of total shares held by the twenty largest registered holders	68.74%
Number of holders holding less than a marketable parcel	616

(b) Substantial shareholders as at 15 September 2015

The Company has received substantial shareholding notices to 15 September 2015 in respect of the following holdings:

	No. of securities	Percentage held
The members of the Veritas Group	28,690,310	7.13%
BlackRock Group	20,128,389	5.00%

(c) Names of the twenty largest registered holders of equity securities as at 15 September 2015

	No. of securities	Percentage held
HSBC Custody Nominees (Australia) Limited	103,603,733	25.76%
J P Morgan Nominees Australia Limited	56,227,582	13.98%
National Nominees Limited	42,207,833	10.49%
Citicorp Nominees Pty Limited	24,912,648	6.19%
Jardvan Pty Ltd	15,958,704	3.97%
BNP Paribas Noms Pty Ltd <DRP>	8,269,531	2.06%
Polly Pty Ltd <A/C Patterson Family>	3,816,646	0.95%
Argo Investments Limited	2,824,483	0.70%
HSBC Custody Nominees (Australia) Limited – A/C 3	2,184,800	0.54%
Goodoil Investments Pty Ltd <Timothy Roberts Invest A/C>	1,973,717	0.49%
RBC Investor Services Australia Nominees Pty Limited <BKCUST A/C>	1,828,715	0.45%
Australian Foundation Investment Company Limited	1,675,000	0.42%
Questor Financial Services Limited <TPS RF A/C>	1,529,353	0.38%
Quintal Pty Ltd <Harken Family A/C>	1,521,138	0.38%
HSBC Custody Nominees (Australia) Limited <NT-Comnwlth Super Corp A/C>	1,461,416	0.36%
National Nominees Limited <DB A/C>	1,442,775	0.36%
Citicorp Nominees Pty Limited <Colonial First State Inv A/C>	1,404,413	0.35%
UBS Wealth Management Australia Nominees Pty Ltd	1,330,630	0.33%
AMP Life Limited	1,252,214	0.31%
BNP Paribas Nominees Pty Ltd <Agency Lending DRP A/C>	1,069,554	0.27%
	276,494,885	**68.74%**

2. Unquoted equity securities as at 15 September 2015

	No. on issue	No. of holders
Options over unissued ordinary shares	7,059,403	54
Performance rights	359,927	2

Shareholders' Information
(continued)

3. Share Registry

Computershare Investor Services Pty Limited
Registered address: Level 5, 115 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, SA 5000
Postal address: GPO Box 1903, Adelaide, SA 5001

Enquiries within Australia:	1300 556 161
Fax within Australia:	1300 534 987
Enquiries outside Australia:	+61 3 9415 4000
Fax outside Australia:	+61 3 9473 2408

Email: www.investorcentre.com/contact

Shareholders with enquiries should email, telephone or write to the Share Registry.

Separate shareholdings may be consolidated by advising the Share Registry in writing or by completing a Request to Consolidate Holdings form which can be found online at the above website.

Shareholders who are issuer sponsored holders should notify the Share Registry of a change of address without delay. Shareholders who are broker sponsored on the CHESS sub-register must notify their sponsoring broker of a change of address.

Direct payment of dividends into a nominated account may be arranged with the Share Registry. Shareholders are encouraged to use this option by completing a payment instruction form online or advising the Share Registry in writing with particulars.

The Annual Report is produced for your information. However, should you receive more than one or wish to be removed from the mailing list for the Annual Report, please advise the Share Registry. You will continue to receive any Notices of Meetings and Proxy Forms.

Supporting the environment through electronic communication
With your support of electronic communication channels, Sonic Healthcare has significantly decreased its shareholder communication print production. Less than 4% of Sonic's shareholders still request a hard copy Annual Report, and over 31% of shareholders receive communications electronically. The result is a reduction in energy and water resources associated with paper production.

4. Annual General Meeting
The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Fort Macquarie Room at the InterContinental Sydney Hotel, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney at 10.00am on Thursday 19 November 2015.