

Media Coverage

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CITY BEAT

ANDREW MAIN



Biotech payback

FORTHCOMING conferences can tell you quite a lot about how well various industry bodies are getting on with government. Take **Ausbiotech 2009**, scheduled for Melbourne on October 27-30. Victorian Premier **John Brumby** will open it but the federal government will be represented by **Anthony Byrne**, parliamentary secretary for trade and parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister. Byrne is reportedly a fine fellow and a credit to any social gathering, but he doesn't have the profile of, say, Finance Minister **Lindsay Tanner**, whose electorate takes in much of the Collingwood, Carlton, Flemington and Brunswick sweep so popular with biotechs. One churlish thought is that some of the biotech brigade may have made a few incautious swipes at federal government policy towards their industry, which has half a dozen orphan failures for every belter — but of course no one's confirming that.