

Policy Document



Health Reform

Introduction

Australia's healthcare system is no longer fit for purpose. It focuses too heavily on treating illness rather than preventing it. We need a system that supports Australians in living healthier lives, while ensuring that our hospitals remain accessible, efficient, and sustainable. Medicare is a valuable national asset, but reforms are necessary to maintain its viability in the face of rising healthcare costs and an ageing population.

The two major political parties have failed to address these challenges, allowing vested interests to dictate healthcare policies. We must take bold steps to reform the system, ensuring it is focused on prevention, efficiency, and patient empowerment.

Key Policy Commitments

1. Shifting Focus to Preventative Healthcare

- Encourage and support Australians in adopting healthier lifestyles to reduce the incidence of chronic illness.
- Establish stronger preventative programs targeting obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and mental health.
- Increase public health education and community-based wellness initiatives.

2. Introducing Health Mutuals for Better Patient Choice and Care

- Establish consumer-governed health mutuals, allowing individuals and families to choose a healthcare plan that aligns with their values and needs.
- These mutuals will be not-for-profit associations responsible for managing member health, coordinating care, and minimizing health risks.
- Mutuals will compete based on their ability to improve member health outcomes, driving innovation and efficiency in healthcare delivery.

3. Ensuring Universal Access with Greater Efficiency

- Medicare will continue as a universal public insurance scheme, but funding will be distributed through health mutuals to enhance efficiency and patient choice.
- No individual will be denied coverage based on health status or pre-existing conditions.

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- Commonwealth funding for each mutual will be risk-adjusted to ensure fairness across different demographics.

4. Encouraging Innovation and Integration in Service Delivery

- Health mutuals will be free to contract with hospitals, medical practitioners, dentists, allied health providers, and community health services.
- Strong incentives will be placed on developing primary care models that focus on early intervention and prevention.
- Mutuals will develop digital health records for each member, ensuring continuity of care and better health outcomes.

5. Reducing Bureaucracy and Waste

- Eliminate unnecessary industry bodies and bureaucratic programs that do not contribute to patient care.
- Redirect funding from administrative overhead to frontline services, ensuring resources are used effectively.
- Encourage private health insurers with a mutual structure to transition into health mutuals, increasing consumer options and competition.

6. A Consumer-Centred, Sustainable Future for Medicare

- By empowering patients and creating competition among health mutuals, we can drive improvements in healthcare while containing costs.
- This approach ensures Medicare remains sustainable, accessible, and responsive to the changing health needs of Australians.

Australia needs a healthcare system that is proactive, not reactive. By prioritising prevention, enhancing consumer choice, and streamlining services, we can build a system that supports all Australians in living healthier lives while maintaining universal coverage. This policy provides a clear, viable alternative to the failures of the current system and ensures that Medicare remains a strong pillar of our society for generations to come.

YOUR Vote, YOUR Voice...

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