



The Coalition's Policy to Support Australia's Health System: A snapshot for members

The coalition outline in their health policy that they will:

- "Cut administration and bureaucracy in the health portfolio to meet the growing needs of frontline services'.
- Not make any cuts to medical research funding.
- Continue to use the landmark McKeon Review to inform future policy.
- Provide researchers and scientists with more time to focus on their work rather than paperwork, by streamlining grant application and approval processes.
- Accelerate clinical trial reforms, working with the sector to provide a nationally coordinated approach to clinical trials, reduce complexity of ethics processes and where possible, rationalise the number of ethics committees.
- Support the process of shifting responsibility of decision making for public hospitals from head office to local communities.
- Re-invest in private health insurance rebates as soon as fiscal circumstances allow.
- Commit \$40 million to support up to 100 additional intern positions each year in private hospitals and non-traditional settings up to 2015.
- Support the transition to a more transparent funding model through activity based funding. Commonwealth funding for major hospitals will be determined by the volume and mix of services provided. Block funding will continue to support the viability of smaller rural and regional services.

Commit to Full implementation of and expansion of Bowel Cancer Screening:

The Coalition plans to bring forward the full implementation of biennial bowel cancer screening by 14 years to 2020, investing \$46.4 million over the next four years to accelerate the full implementation for people ages 50-74 between 2015 and 2020.

Provide Timely Access to New Medicines

- Working to ensure new medicines are available as soon as possible through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).
- Increasing the Health Minister's authority to list medicines recommended by the PBAC that do not cost more than \$20 million in any of the first four years of listing.

Rebuild primary care:

- Invest \$52.5 million to expand existing general practices for teaching and supervision.
- Invest \$119 million to double the practice incentive payment for teaching in general practice.
- Commit \$13.4 million to provide 500 additional nursing and allied health scholarships for students and health professionals targeted to areas of clinical need and to address workforce shortages in rural and remote areas.
- Provide financial assistance to students from rural and remote areas who have attained a position to study.
- Provide \$40 million for 400 medical internships in private and non-traditional settings.
- Review the Medicare Local structure to ensure funding is being spent effectively.
- Invest in rural and regional teaching and infrastructure, providing partnership grants to general practices, committing to \$52.5 million to provide at least 175 grants of up to \$300,000.

The have also made policy commitments relating to other areas such as dental health and diabetes. You can find the full report on [here](#).