

The Inaugural The Future of Medicare Forum

Exploring the funding arrangements in the public health system



5 & 6 November 2009 | Swissôtel Sydney



Featuring an outstanding panel of speakers including:

- + The Hon. Paul Lucas MP,
Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, Queensland
- + Dr. Paul Gross, Director,
Institute of Health Economics and Technology Assessment
- + Jim Butler, Professor and Director, Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health (ACERH), **The Australian National University**
- + Johannes (Just) Stoelwinder, Chair of Health Services Management, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, **Monash University**
- + Mark Fitzgibbon, Chief Executive, **NIB Holdings**
- + Bruce Levy, CEO, **Medibank Private**
- + Ian Yates, Chief Executive, **COTA Seniors Voice (Council on the Ageing)**
- + David Crosbie, Chief Executive, **Mental Health Council of Australia**
- + Katherine McGrath, CEO, **Australian Association of Pathology Practices**
- + Carol Bennett, CEO, **Consumers Health Forum**
- + John Dwyer AO, Emeritus Professor, **UNSW** and Founder, **Australian Health Care Reform Alliance**
- + Rod Wilson, CEO, **Inner East Community Health Service**
- + Ged Kearney, Federal Secretary, **Australian Nursing Federation**

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Researched and developed by:

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The Inaugural The Future

DAY ONE Thursday 5th November 2009

8.00 Registration and coffee

8.30 Welcome and speed networking session

Get to know your peers right from the start in this relaxed and informal speed networking session. Bring your business cards!

8.45 Opening remarks from the Chair
Craig Bosworth, Director of Strategy, **Healthways Australia**



HEALTH POLICY REFORM

8.50 **Reviewing the government's agenda for Medicare, the implications for health expenditure and the impact on health care services**

OPENING ADDRESS

- + What is the government's stance on funding options in recent reports?
- + What is the effect of the current economic crisis on healthcare funding?
- + How will the funding arrangements impact the role of Medicare?
- + What challenges face the future of the Medicare scheme?
- + What are the national health priorities?

Craig Bosworth, Director of Strategy, **Healthways Australia**

GOVERNANCE OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

9.10 **Strengthening the governance of our national health system**

- + What will be the role of state departments?
- + What are the state-based challenges?
- + How do we prepare for the changes?

The Hon. Paul Lucas MP, **Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, Queensland**

9.30 **Preparing for the changes to health funding arrangements**

- + Preparing for the changes to health funding arrangements
- + What are the proposed changes to health funding?
- + Which of the NH&HRC proposals will be implemented?
- + How could they be implemented nationally?
- + How will funding effect the future of health services?

Kenneth Baxter, Former Secretary, **Department of Premier & Cabinet Victoria & Former Director-General, NSW Premier's Department**

10.00 **Unmuddling the programs of successive governments and recommendations for a fundamental redesign of funding health care**

- + Examining the fragmentation of existing programs
- + Developing a holistic approach to health reform
- + Health reform for economic efficiency
- + Rationalisation of co-payments
- + PHI incentives and the cost to the health budget

Ian McAuley, Fellow, **Centre for Policy Development**, Lecturer, Public Sector Finance, **University of Canberra**

10.30 Morning tea

HEALTH EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING OPTIONS

10.45 **Medicare is tired, private health insurance needs a rethink, but have the reform committees shown us the way ahead?**

- + The collective messages of the three expert committees
- + The gaps in the collective vision and the government response
- + Converting Medicare from a data accumulator into a patient support system
- + Converting private insurers from partial bill payers into change agents
- + Repositioning pharmacy, general practice and nursing into effective primary care
- + Relieving doctors of the paper burden and paying them for measurable quality and patient safety

Dr. Paul Gross, Director, **Institute of Health Economics and Technology Assessment**

11.30 **Medicare: What's the problem?**

- + Is health care spending out of control?
- + The role of economic evaluation: what does the future hold?
- + Public vs. private production: efficiency of public and private hospitals
- + Public vs. private financing: the public/private interface in health insurance
- + Funding challenges posed by ageing and technological change

Jim Butler, Professor and Director, Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health (ACERH), **The Australian National University**

12.00 **Redirecting health funding and enhancing competition between Medicare and private health funds**

- + Investing in a sustainable health insurance system – who should pay?
- + Will reform enhance competition between Medicare and private funds?
- + Is a national social health insurance scheme a viable option?
- + What are the issues surrounding taxation and the Medicare levies?
- + How would a social insurance levy be implemented?

Johannes (Just) Stoelwinder, Chair of Health Services Management, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, **Monash University**

12.30 Lunch

E-HEALTH AND INNOVATION

1.30 **Working with Medicare to develop the Unique Healthcare Identifier**

- + The Unique Healthcare Identifier – what is it and how does it work?
- + Developments in electronic patient records to enhance patient safety
- + Improving electronic claiming procedures for ease of use and efficiency

Sheila Bird, General Manager Business Futures & eClaiming, **Medicare Australia**
Peter Padd, Program Manager of Infrastructure Services, **NEHTA**

2.00 **Medicare and its role in the new world of E-Health**

- + Benefits of introducing E-Health nationwide
- + Key stakeholders and their role
- + Required infrastructure and the possible roles of Medicare

Klaus Boehncke, Principal, **Booz & Company Australia**

PHARMACEUTICALS

2.30 **Analysing the changes to Medicare - a pharmaceutical perspective**

- + Current funding for the PBS
- + How Insurance is tackling drug costing issues
- + Needed funds for R&D in pharmaceuticals

Alex Gosman, External Affairs Advisor, **GlaxoSmithKline Australia**

DENTAL CARE

3.00 **Assessing the limitations on access to dental services under the current Medicare system**

- + Addressing the lack of universal comprehensive dental care
- + Examining the current level of funding on dental services and the costs involved
- + Delivering universal dental Medicare in a cost-effective manner

A/Prof Hans Zoellner, Chairman, **Association for the Promotion of Oral Health**

3.30 Afternoon tea

PANEL DISCUSSION

3.50 **Balancing government spending and private funding**

- + The debate between public health vs. PHI
- + What is the impact of changes to PHI rebates?
- + What is the impact of EMSN and changes to MBS fees?
- + Discussing the challenges and issues commonly overlooked:
 - The pressure on Medicare through changes to temporary resident visas
 - Health insurance obligations for international students
 - Employers' responsibilities

Mark Fitzgibbon, Chief Executive, **NIB Holdings**

Bruce Levy, CEO, **Medibank Private**

Peter Sasson, President, **Private Health Insurance Intermediaries Association**, and General Manager, **JLT Health Benefits**

John Dwyer AO, Emeritus Professor, **UNSW** and Founder, **Australian Health Care Reform Alliance**

Jim Butler, Professor and Director, Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health (ACERH), **The Australian National University**

Ian McAuley, Fellow, **Centre for Policy Development**, Lecturer, Public Sector Finance, **University of Canberra**

4.50 Closing remarks from the Chair

5.00 End of day one

ure of Medicare Forum

DAY TWO Friday 6th November 2009

- 8.30 Coffee and networking
- 8.45 Welcome and speed networking session
- 8.50 Opening remarks from the Chair

AGEING POPULATION

- 9.00 **Prioritising older patients in health care delivery**
- + Health insurance issues for an ageing population
 - + Examining the health needs of elderly patients
 - + Investing in the health system to avoid future challenges
- Ian Yates, Chief Executive, **COTA Seniors Voice (Council on the Ageing)**

MENTAL HEALTH

- 9.30 **Making mental health a priority in national health services**
- + Mental health items covered by Medicare
 - + Realising the growth in demand of mental health
 - + What are the implications for health services?
 - + Enhancing accessibility to mental health care
- David Crosbie, Chief Executive, **Mental Health Council of Australia**

DIAGNOSTICS

- 10.00 **Assessing the changes to funding for diagnostics**
- + Recent changes to diagnostics under the MBS
 - + Funding issues for diagnostic services
- Prof. Katherine McGrath, CEO, **Australian Association of Pathology Practices**

OBSTETRICS

- 10.30 **Improving equity and ease of access to obstetric practice and maternity care services**
- + What are the changes to the MBS in obstetrics and maternity care?
 - + How will the changes ensure the highest quality of care for all patients?
- Dr Ted Weaver, President, **Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG)**

- 11.00 Morning tea

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

- 11.20 **Remodelling the health care system and promoting structural change**
- + What structural changes have been made to Primary Health Care?
 - + What are the challenges and risks within the existing healthcare system?
 - + How does the current reform aim to improve health service provision?
 - + Reform based on the need for health services rather than financial wealth
- John Dwyer AO, Emeritus Professor, UNSW and Founder, **Australian Health Care Reform Alliance**

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE

- 11.50 **What could a comprehensive healthcare service look like?**
- + How could Medicare further improve primary healthcare?
 - + How can Medicare better support team care and chronic illness management?
 - + Pooling resources to strengthen Primary Healthcare
 - + Addressing the causes of poor health
- Rod Wilson, CEO, **Inner East Community Health Service**

GENERAL PRACTICE

- 12.20 **On dealing with the elephant... Medicare**
- + What are the challenges for GPs?
 - + How can services be improved?
 - + Red tape +++
 - + Picking your way through the impenetrable bureaucracy
 - + It's a dog's breakfast
- Dr. Raymond Seidler General Practitioner, Kings Cross and Medical Director, **Eastern Sydney Division of General Practice**

- 12.50 Lunch

NURSING AND NURSE PRACTITIONERS

- 1.50 **Utilising the skills of nurse practitioners and supporting a team-based approach**
- + Why we need nurse practitioners covered by the MBS
 - + What are the new roles for nurse practitioners?
 - + Managing the interaction between GPs and nurses
- Ged Kearney, Federal Secretary, **Australian Nursing Federation**

RURAL AND REMOTE CARE

- 2.20 **Reskilling the primary care workforce and ensuring equal access to health care in rural and remote areas**
- + Medicare as a tool for workforce planning
 - + How should Medicare look to support remote and rural practice?
 - + How is Medicare used to encourage health workers to relocate?
 - + What strategies are being used to support education and training?
 - + Why retain and retrain the existing health care workforce?
- A/Professor, Sabina Knight, Remote Area Nurse and Senior Lecturer, **Centre for Remote Health**

CONSUMER HEALTH

- 2.50 **Consumer health needs – an overview of the changes to Medicare that health consumers are seeking**
- + What services are consumers seeking?
 - + How this varies from what is provided?
 - + Will changes enhance equity and accessibility?
- Carol Bennett, CEO, **Consumers Health Forum**

- 3.20 Closing remarks from the Chair

- 3.30 End of conference

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

The inaugural GP Super Clinics Conference

26th & 27th August 2009 | Sydney Harbour Marriott

The 12th Annual Health Facilities Planning & Design Summit

22nd & 23rd September 2009 | Sofitel Wentworth, Sydney

Reforming Australia's health workforce

23rd & 24th November 2009 | Sofitel Wentworth, Sydney

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