



ACERH

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH ON HEALTH

SEMINAR

Tuesday, 8 September 2009, 10:05-11:15am

E.S. Myers Lecture Theatre, The University of Queensland
3rd floor, Mayne Medical School Building
Herston Road, Herston

Hospital financing and the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission reports

Professor Jim Butler
ACERH, Australian National University

The Speaker

Jim Butler is Professor of health economics at The Australian National University and foundation Director of the Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health (ACERH). He has a PhD in economics from the University of Queensland and over 30 years research and consulting experience in health economics. His consulting experience includes projects for numerous government bodies and private sector organisations, including the Commonwealth Grants Commission in Australia and the World Bank. His research interests include health insurance, health care financing, hospitals costs and economic evaluation. In 2009 he was appointed by the Commonwealth Minister for Health to Australia's Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) and has also been appointed Chair of MSAC's Economics Sub-Committee.

Abstract

Hospital financing has been a subject of considerable policy debate in Australia in recent times, both in the run-up to the last Federal election in 2007 and since, with the establishment of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC) "to develop a long-term health reform plan for a modern Australia". This seminar will discuss the Australian institutional arrangements for hospital financial, the motivations for reform of hospital financing including overinsurance which is engendered by the current system, options for reforming hospital financing, and the current state of policy development. Against this backdrop, the seminar will also discuss the interim and final reports and recommendations of the NHHRC, particularly focussing on the aspects of those reports dealing with the role of the Australian Government in funding hospitals and the Medicare Select proposal.