



Australian Government

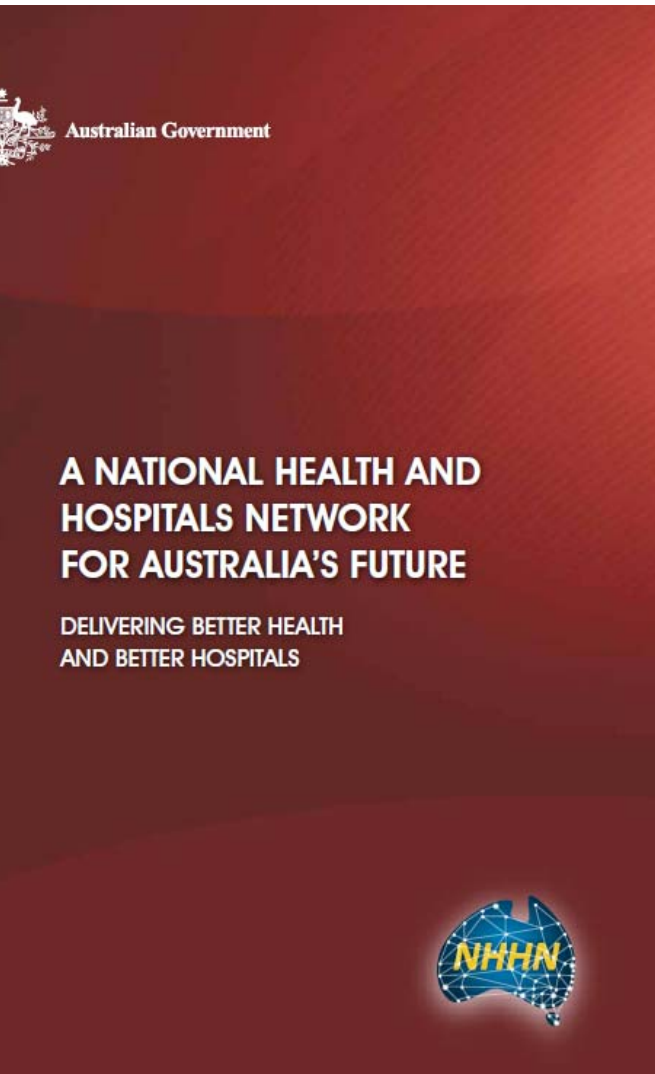


NATIONAL HEALTH AND HOSPITALS NETWORK

National Health and Hospitals Network for Australia's Future

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Department of Health and Ageing**

olution: A National Health and Hospitals Network



\$7.3 billion to deliver better quality health care in primary health, hospitals and aged care by:

- Reforming the fundamentals of our health and hospital system
- Changing the way health services are delivered
- Providing high quality care and better access to services for patients right now.

Overview of the National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement

Under the National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement

The Commonwealth will:

- be the majority funder of public hospital services
- have full policy and funding responsibility for GP and primary health care services
- have full funding, policy, management and delivery responsibility for a national aged care system.

The States will:

- be responsible for system-wide public hospital service planning and performance, purchasing of public hospital services and capital planning
- act as key partners supporting the Commonwealth's responsibility for system-wide GP and primary health care policy and service planning coordination.

Governance reform to implement change

Governance functions underpinning reform

At the national level:

- Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA)
- National Performance Authority (NPA)
- Continuation and expansion of the Australian Commission for Quality and Safety in Health Care (ACSQHC)
- Transition Office within the Department of Health and Ageing

At the local level:

- Local Hospital Networks
- Medicare Locals

From 1 July 2010, the Australian Government will commence work with states to:

- Provide funding of **\$3.4 billion** to address key pressure points in the public hospital system
 - Emergency department four hour access target
 - Elective surgery targets and guarantees
 - Capital investment
 - Sub-acute care
 - Flexible funding pool to drive improvement
- Introduce an annual Hospital Performance Report
- Drive improvements in quality and safety

Primary Health Care

Improving access to primary health care for patients through:

- Commonwealth taking majority funding role for primary health care
- Establishing Medicare Locals
- Investing in primary care infrastructure
- Providing better coordinated care for patients with diabetes
- Delivering better access to primary health care services for aged care recipients
- Providing better access to after hours primary care services

To result in:

- More consistent access to all Australians to primary health care services
- Better integration for patients and clinicians between services in and out of hospital

Primary Health Care – indicative implementation timelines

July 2010	Commencement of funding for enhanced access to primary health care for older Australians
July 2011	GP telephone advice service commences
July 2011	Direct and competitive infrastructure grants made available to establish medium and large GP Super Clinics and upgrades and extensions to existing PHC services
April 2011	First group of Medicare Locals operational
January 2012	New practice nurse program commences
April 2012	Remaining Medicare Locals operational
July 2012	Practices commence signing up for coordinated care for diabetes arrangements
2012-2013	Personally controlled electronic health record consumers will be able to register on-line.
December 2012	Further GP Super Clinics funding grants available.
July 2013	Funding of local after hours primary health care services through Medicare Locals

Primary Health Care – major funding role

Improving access to primary health care for patients through:

Commonwealth taking majority funding role for primary health care

- Full funding and policy responsibility for GP and primary health care from 1 July 2011
- States will be responsible for the ongoing operation of services funded by the Commonwealth unless the relevant State agrees to divest this responsibility
- Transferred services include community health centre primary health care services, primary mental health care, immunisation and cancer screening programs
- Other services to be considered later (eg community health promotion and population health programs including preventive health, drug and alcohol treatment, child and maternal health, community palliative care and specialist community mental health)
- Commonwealth to work with States on system-wide primary health care policy
- Next steps - stocktake, transition arrangements, planning.

Primary Health Care – Medicare Locals

Improving access to primary health care for patients through:

Establishing Medicare Locals

- **\$290.5 million** for a national network of Medicare Locals
- Independent legal entities
- Strong links to communities, health professionals and service providers – respond to local needs
- First Medicare Locals to commence operations by mid 2011; remainder by mid 2012
- Range of functions aimed at making it easier for patients to navigate the health care system and provide more integrated care
- Where possible, Medicare Locals will be drawn from existing Divisions
- Consultation with stakeholders on implementation arrangements.

Primary Health Care – Patients with diabetes

Improving access to primary health care for patients through:

Investing \$449 million for better coordinated care for patients with diabetes

- Funding primary health care services for treatment and ongoing management of people with diabetes
- Based on voluntary patient enrolment with their general practice
- Practice responsible for:
 - their ongoing GP primary health care; and
 - management of their diabetes
- Practice will arrange for required allied health services through the Medicare Local.
- Commences July 2012

- **From July 2010, the Government will invest \$466.7 million to introduce a national personally controlled electronic health record system**
 - The system will enable people – and the health provider they choose – to access online their key health information – such as medications and whether their immunisations are up-to-date – when and where it is needed, for their care across the health system.
 - People who choose to have a personally controlled electronic health record will be able to register online from 2012-13.

A strong and effective primary health care system for Australia characterised by:

- Improved access and reduced inequity
- Better management of chronic disease
- Increased focus on prevention
- Improved quality and safety, performance and accountability

Next steps

- Consultation with stakeholders on the implementation arrangements for the primary health care initiatives