

# **MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGES IN HEALTH POLICY 2003**

- 1. ATSI Health**
- 2. Revitalising the 3 pillars of Medicare**
  1. MBS – access to Medical Practitioners
  2. Aust. Health Care Agmts – access to pub Hosp
  3. PBS – access to medicines
- 3. The 4<sup>th</sup> Pillar – Prevention**
- 4. Mental Health**
- 5. Rural & Remote Health**
- 6. Quality and Sustainability – Educ<sup>n</sup>/R&D/Eval<sup>n</sup>**

# ATSI HEALTH

- **Top Priority – National Disgrace !**
- **Rapid Improvement possible – NZ, Canada, USA**
- **Per capita spending only 50% (inequality adjusted)**
- **Must be part of broad Intersectoral program**
- **Work force, training and capacity building**
- **Not on National Radar for 2003 !?!**

# THE 3 PILLARS

**MBS & medical pract.**

**Com'lth/State Agreements**

**PBS & Drugs**

**Resource Allocation**

**Public/Private Mix**

**Rethink and reform**

# **“THE 3 PILLARS”**

## **Major Challenges**

- **Viability of Medicare & MBS**
  - Bulk billing
  - Rural and remote
- **High quality hospital system**
  - Access and acute services in Public Hospitals
  - Health Insurance and Public/Private Mix
- **Commonwealth/State – (Dis)agreements**
  - ?introduce quality, not just quantity
- **Availability of effective drugs – including new.**

# THE 4<sup>TH</sup> PILLAR : PREVENTION

- **? Build into Com'lth/State Agreements?**
- **Key Programs – across NHPAs**
  - Nutrition / Physical activity – obesity
  - Smoking – the next step
  - Drugs and Alcohol
  - HIV - AIDS
  - Road accidents and injury
- **Australian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance**

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# **QUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE LONG TERM**

- **Education, training and capacity building**
- **R & D**
- **Data collection and evaluation at National level.**

# **SPECIFIC PRIORITIES FOR 2003**

**1. ATSI Health**

**2. Com'lth/State Agreements**

**3. Some specifics**

- **Bulk Billing**
- **Health Insurance & Public/Private Mix**
- **Equity and access to Acute Hosp Services**
- **New Expensive Drugs & PBS**

**4. Quality across the board**

**5. Prevention – Nutrition/Phys Activity**