

## ELECTION POLICIES AND STATED POSITIONS

Last updated: 23 November 2007

POLICY AREA	COALITION	LABOR
<p><b>Public hospitals and AHCAs</b></p>	<p>Additional 2000 transition care beds. 15/11/2007 (\$117m / 4 years)</p> <p>Takeover of Mersey Hospital, Tasmania. 01/08/2007 (\$45m / year)* Takeover timeframe of 1 November will not be met. 31/10/2007</p> <p>Improving public hospital accountability and governance 02/10/2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local boards of management required as part of next AHCAs.</li> </ul> <p>Boards will only apply to 'decent sized' facilities. 18/10/2007</p> <p>Funding for Tasmanian hospitals. 08/10/2007 (\$35m / 4 years)*</p> <p>Upgrade of Grafton Base Hospital if State agrees to local board taking over operation of hospital. 10/10/2007 (\$18m)</p> <p>Performance reports ('scorecards') to be required from public hospitals. 11/10/2007</p> <p>No commitment to Commonwealth providing 50% of public hospital funding through AHCAs. 11/10/2007</p>	<p>Additional 2000 transition care beds. 30/06/2007 (\$158m / 5 years)</p> <p>Support for Tas Govt hospital reforms.</p> <p>National Health Reform Plan. 23/08/2007 (\$2b / 4 years but \$220m of this has been allocated to GP Super clinics and \$15m to cancer clinical trials)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Health and Hospitals Reforms Commission through COAG within 100 days of being elected.</li> <li>• Incentives to state who achieve specified health outcomes.</li> <li>• If States and Territories do not implement reforms by mid-2009, referendum re financial takeover of hospitals.</li> <li>• Federal Government will not run public hospitals.</li> </ul> <p>Health and Hospital Advisory Group established, headed by Roxon. 26/08/2007</p> <p>Elective surgery list reduction plan for public hospitals. 19/10/2007 (\$600m, of which \$200m is from the National Health Reform Plan funds)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$100m in 2008 to conduct an immediate national blitz to clear elective surgery waiting lists.</li> <li>• \$200m / 2 years for systematic improvements such as construction of additional day surgery units.</li> <li>• \$300m in dividend payments to States and Territories that meet reduction targets.</li> </ul> <p>Further details announced 31/10/2007.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• States and Territories required to report, hospital by hospital, on reduced waiting times for elective surgery.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Obesity</b></p>	<p>Active After School Communities program 16/05/2007 (\$12m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants to communities and schools to promote healthy living in at-risk groups.</li> </ul>	<p>Kitchen Garden Pilot program. 19/08/2007 (\$12.8m / 4 years)</p> <p>Evaluation of successful community initiatives and sharing information with other communities. 01/09/2007 (\$1.7m)</p>



	<p>Wellbeing Plan for Aussie Kids 21/09/2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSIRO plan funded in 2007-08 budget (\$3m).</li> <li>• Fridge magnets and books for school kids.</li> <li>• Website to provide advice for parents.</li> </ul> <p>Announcement of funding for 320 community organisations to run local programs promoting healthy, active lifestyles. 12/10/2007 (\$37m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding provided through Australian Better Health Initiative established by COAG in 2006 – this is not a new program.</li> </ul>	<p>Development and distribution of guidelines on healthy eating and physical activity in early childhood. 01/09/2007 (\$3.5m)</p> <p>Support for national nutrition and physical activity survey promised by the Government. 01/09/2007</p> <p>Support for Healthy Spaces and Places project of Planning Institute of Australia, ALGA, NHF. 16/10/2007 (\$700,000)</p> <p>Labor will not ban junk food advertising and use of cartoon characters. 26/10/2007</p> <p>Obesity will be a National Health Priority. 20/11/2007</p> <p>Grant to support obesity program of Osborne (WA) DGP. 20/11/2007 (\$235,000)</p>
Prevention		<p>Fresh Ideas, Future Economy: Preventative health care for our families and our future economy. 28/06/2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Preventative Health Strategy with an expert task force.</li> <li>• Reform process to provide incentives to encourage GPs to practice quality preventative medicine.</li> <li>• National Preventative Health Care Partnership with states to include prevention in AHCAs.</li> <li>• Treasury to produce reports on impact of chronic disease on the economy and economic benefits of focus on prevention.</li> </ul> <p>Funding boost for National Tobacco Strategy. 17/11/2007 (\$15 m / 3 years)</p>
Chronic illness	<p>Subsidy for insulin pumps for children under 18 with Type 1 diabetes. 14/11/2007 (\$22m / 3 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3000 pumps through NDSS</li> </ul> <p>Subsidy for apo-morphine pumps for people with Parkinson's Disease. 14/11/2007 (\$4m / 3 years)</p>	<p>Treasury to produce reports on impact of chronic disease on the economy. 28/06/2007</p>
Mental health		<p>Postnatal depression 06/10/2007 (\$85m / 5 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes \$20m to ATAPS.</li> <li>• \$5m to beyondblue.</li> <li>• Looks to contribution of additional \$30m / 5 years from States and Territories.</li> </ul> <p>Roxon Speech to Mental Health Foundation of Australia 08/10/2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health on COAG agenda.</li> <li>• Integrated approach to service delivery with States and Territories.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for establishment of Australian National Council on Mental Health.</li> <li>• Focus on prevention and early intervention.</li> <li>• Evaluation and accountability of existing mental health services.</li> </ul> <p>Support for Sisters of Charity mental health outreach service (NW Tas). 16/11/2007 (\$1.25m / 4 years)</p>
<b>Dental health</b>	<p>Dental care through Medicare 14/08/2007 (\$384.6m / 4 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$4250 over 2 years for dental care for people with chronic and complex conditions.</li> <li>• Policy estimates 200,000 people will access scheme over 4 years; Abbott (10/11/2007) says up to 700,000 people, possibly signally wider availability.</li> </ul>	<p>Commonwealth Dental Health Care program 18/09/2007 (\$290m from abolition of Medicare dental services)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide 1 million dental treatments.</li> <li>• Modelled on Keating Commonwealth Dental Health Program.</li> </ul> <p>Cairns School of Tropical Dentistry, James Cook University. 11/11/2007 (\$52.5m / 4 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital funding \$33m</li> <li>• 60 commencing dental places / year (\$11m)</li> <li>• Outreach services for student practical training in remote areas (\$8m)</li> </ul> <p>Medicare Teen Dental Plan. 11/11/2007 (\$510m / 3 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$150 / year towards cost of annual dental check-up for kids aged 12-17 in families receiving Family Tax Benefit A.</li> </ul>
<b>Cancer</b>	<p>Better cancer care and support for women. 24/10/2007 (\$23.8m / 4 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New and replacement breast prostheses for women who have lost breasts to cancer up to \$400 each. Funding of \$23.8m / 4 years to NBCC.</li> <li>• Grant to McGrath Foundation, working with NBCC, for 30 specialist breast cancer nurses (\$12m).</li> <li>• Funding for National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers (\$5.1m/3 years).</li> </ul> <p>Collaborative cancer centres for teenagers. 26/10/2007 (\$15m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funds to boost CanTeen's efforts to raise \$30m for establishment of 6 centres.</li> <li>• Funding conditional on States providing ongoing recurrent funds for staffing.</li> </ul>	<p>Cancer clinical trials. 08/10/2007 (\$15m / 3 years)</p> <p>Children's Cancer Centre at Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide. 10/10/2007 (\$15m)</p> <p>National bowel cancer screening for all 50-year olds. 11/10/2007 (\$25m / 3 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funds for follow-up colonoscopies to be negotiated through AHCA's;</li> <li>• Work with States and territories to set up framework for national implementation including workforce planning, training, follow-up services, quality assurance.</li> </ul> <p>Labor will match Coalition commitment of \$15m for establishment of youth cancer network. 26/10/2007</p> <p>Capital grant towards establishment of Olivia Newton-John Cancer centre at Austin Hospital, Melbourne. 12/10/2007 (\$15m)</p>

		<p>Funds to set up two dedicated prostate cancer research centres – one to be located at Epworth Hospital, Richmond, Vic. 12/10/2007 (\$15m / 5 years)</p> <p>Establishment of comprehensive cancer centre to be co-located with Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, in association with University of Sydney. 13/10/2007 (\$50m)</p>
<b>Maternal and child health</b>	<p>Expansion of incentive payments for GP obstetricians in rural areas. 01/07/2007</p> <p>Extension of Specialist Obstetrician Locum Scheme beyond 2009. 12/11/2007</p>	<p>Health Kids Check. 10/04/2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of health, sight, hearing, dental health, immunization status, ADHD risk for kids entering school.</li> </ul> <p>Detail of above policy. 16/11/2007 (\$35m / 4 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$45 Medicare rebate for eyesight, hearing, height and BMI check for 4 year olds.</li> </ul> <p>Indigenous Mums and Bubs Health Initiative. 26/05/2007 (\$102m)</p> <p>Labor supports drive for maternity reform. 28/09/2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review MBS to include midwives in provision of maternity care.</li> <li>Facilitate the expansion of midwife-led care.</li> <li>Develop a national maternity services plan to ensure national coordination of maternal services.</li> </ul> <p>Expansion of Specialist Obstetrician Locum Scheme from \$500,000 to \$2m / year in 2008-09 (\$6m).</p> <p>Review MBS to include midwives in provision of maternity care.</p> <p>Support for breastfeeding mothers. 22/11/2007 (\$2m / 4 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding to Australian breast feeding Association to set up national toll-free 24 hour phone line.</li> </ul>
<b>Women's health</b>		<p>Labor will update National Women's Health Policy. 29/10/2007</p>
<b>Men's health</b>		<p>Labor will develop a National Men's Health Policy. 05/11/2007</p>
<b>Workforce</b>	<p>Australian Hospital Nursing School. 14/09/2007 (\$170m / 5 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 schools within public and private hospitals for enrolled nurses.</li> <li>Training for 500 nurses a year.</li> </ul> <p>Clinical training school at Greenslopes Private Hospital, Qld. 18/10/2007 (\$13m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be operated jointly by UQ and Ramsay</li> </ul>	<p>Chief Commonwealth Nursing officer (Gillard commitment)</p> <p>More nurses for Australia's hospitals. 17/10/2007 ((\$81m/5 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to train and attract back 9250 nurses / 5 years.</li> <li>Cash bonuses of \$6,000 to 7,750 nurses who return to hospital workforce.</li> <li>Contribution of \$1,000 / re-entry nurse to hospital for retraining.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-located training for doctors and nurses</li> </ul> <p>Increase in GP training places. 31/10/2007 (\$108m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>900 places by 2011 (50% increase)</li> <li>510 rotation places in GP surgeries by 2011 (80% increase)</li> </ul> <p>Increase in specialist training places in private hospitals and surgeries. 31/10/2007 (\$37m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>150 places a year by 2011 (100% increase)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>500 new university places in 2008, and 1000 / year from 2009</li> <li>Universities asked to offer at least 25% of these places to ENs looking to upgrade.</li> </ul> <p>Double the number of John Flynn scholarships to 300 / year. 26/10/2007 (\$2.5m)</p> <p>Expanded scholarships program (Education policy 14/11/2007)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Priority Scholarships in areas such as nursing, medicine, dentistry, allied health.</li> <li>\$2120 / year for up to 4 years.</li> </ul> <p>Australian Allied Health Rural and Remote Clinical Placement Scholarship Plan. 17/11/2007 (\$2.5 m / 3 years)</p> <p>More nurses and specialists for rural and regional areas. 18/11/2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 400 of the additional 1000 nursing places /year to go to universities offering clinical experience in regional and rural hospitals.</li> <li>Additional support for MSOAP (\$9m / 3 years)</li> </ul>
<b>Indigenous health</b>	<p>Health checks for all Indigenous children under 16 as part of NT Emergency Response. 05/07/2007</p> <p>Establishment of Remote Area Health Corps as part of NT Emergency Response. 18/09/2007 (\$100m).</p>	<p>Mums and Bubs Health Initiative. 26/05/2007 (\$187 m plus \$75m from States and Territories)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive child and maternal health services (\$92m).</li> <li>Tackling rheumatic fever (\$10m).</li> <li>Accommodation services for women who travel to have their baby (\$10m).</li> </ul> <p>Labor will improve health services in the Northern Territory. 05/11/2007 (\$20m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade and expand remote health care facilities (\$10m)</li> <li>Establish renal dialysis facilities in remote communities (\$5m)</li> <li>Sexual assault counselling in remote areas (\$4.6m)</li> </ul> <p>Labor will deliver the \$15.9 million for alcohol rehabilitation services promised by Howard Government in June 2006. 05/11/2007</p>
<b>Rural health</b>	<p>Expansion of incentive payments for GP obstetricians in rural areas. 01/07/2007</p> <p>Boost to Rural Medical Infrastructure Fund (RMIF). 25/10/2007 (\$5m / year)</p>	<p>Reform of Rural Medical Infrastructure Fund. 12/09/2007</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase cap of \$400,000/project to \$1m.</li> <li>• Remove restriction on funding to towns of less than 10,000 people, but require clinics to be within RRMA 3-7.</li> <li>• ACCHOs eligible to apply.</li> <li>• Private practices eligible for grants up to \$75,000 in some circumstances.</li> </ul> <p>Extension of Specialist Obstetrician Locum Scheme beyond 2009. 12/11/2007</p> <p>Rural and remote training equipment fund. 12/11/2007 (\$15m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For purchase and distributions of simulator equipment so rural doctors can maintain skills.</li> </ul>	<p>Improving rural health services through the next AHCAs. 28/09/2007</p> <p>Rural health. 26/10/2007 (\$8.5m from \$2b hospital fund)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double number of John Flynn scholarships from 150 to 300, starting 2009 (\$2.5m).</li> <li>• Expansion of Specialist Obstetrician Locum Scheme from \$500,000 to \$2m / year in 2008-09 (\$6m).</li> </ul> <p>Australian Allied Health Rural and Remote Clinical Placement Scholarship Plan. 17/11/2007 (\$2.5 m / 3 years)</p> <p>More nurses and specialists for rural and regional areas. 18/11/2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 400 of the additional 1000 nursing places /year to go to universities offering clinical experience in regional and rural hospitals.</li> <li>• Additional support for MSOAP (\$9m / 3 years)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Medicare</b></p>	<p>New Medicare items for autism spectrum disorders. 03/10/2007 (\$20m / 5 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MBS items for paediatricians and psychiatrists for diagnosis and development of treatment plans for children up to 12 years;</li> <li>• MBS items for AHS (up to 20 services/child).</li> </ul> <p>Medicare funded comprehensive geriatric assessment and management of people over 65. 05/10/2007 (\$15m / 4 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on cognition, polypharmacy, incontinence, falls.</li> </ul> <p>GPs can refer patients for MRI scans of knee or skull without need to refer on to specialists. 1/10/2007 (\$20m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This applies to about 20% of MRI scans.</li> <li>• Increase in number of scans expected.</li> </ul> <p>Expansion of funding for practice nurses. 31/10/2007 (\$440m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All GPs can now access \$40,000 grant for PN.</li> </ul>	<p>Reform process to modernize Medicare. 15/07/2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-examination of AIRWG.</li> <li>• Examining incentives for GPs to practice preventive health care.</li> <li>• Review if MBS to alleviate red tape</li> </ul> <p>Labor will retain Medicare safety net . 22/09/2007</p> <p>Review MBS to include midwives in provision of maternity care.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home visits by PN for people over 65, veterans, and people under 65 and too ill to travel (\$164.5m)</li> </ul> <p>Family emergency medical centres. 02/11/2007 (\$433m / 5 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 centres, half open 24 hours, remainder at least 7am-11pm / 7days.</li> <li>Start-up grants of \$1.25m and annual operating grants of \$350,000 for 24hr clinics.</li> <li>Start-up grants of \$750,000 and annual operating grants of \$100,000 for late-night clinics.</li> <li>Medicare rebates for clinic GPs increased 15% between 8am-6pm and 40% between 7am-8am and 6pm-11pm.</li> <li>All GPs who work after hours will x2 loading from \$10.65 to \$21.30</li> </ul>	<p>GP Super Clinics. 26/08/2007 (\$220m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to GPs, nurses, specialists and AHS.</li> </ul>
<b>Private health insurance</b>	<p>Abbott says private health insurance premiums will be lower in 2008. (11/10/2007)</p>	<p>Labor will retain PHI rebates at current levels, Lifetime Health Cover and Medicare Levy Surcharge. Will look at when surcharge cuts in. 26/09/2007</p> <p>Labor will not sell Medibank. (Tanner 04/11/2007)</p>
<b>Research</b>	<p>Funds to Australian Centre for Health Research 17/10/2007 (\$500,000)</p>	
<b>Local announcements</b>	<p>Funding for 2 GP after hours clinics in Geelong (Vic).</p> <p>MRI Medicare licences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Armadale and Joondalup (WA)</li> <li>Sutherland Shire, Bankstown, Wollongong Hospital, Newcastle-Hunter (NSW)</li> <li>Bundaberg and Cairns (Qld)</li> <li>Inner Melbourne and Clayton-Oakleigh (Vic)</li> <li>Morphett Vale and Port Augusta (SA)</li> <li>Launceston General Hospital (Tas)</li> <li>Northwest Tasmania.</li> </ul> <p>Construction of rehabilitation and transitional care facilities and psychiatric unit at Burnie Hospital (\$35m / 3 years)</p> <p>Upgrading of oncology, radiotherapy and transitional care facilities and new cardiac care facilities at Launceston Hospital (\$16m / 3 years).</p>	<p>MRI machine and licence, Cairns (Qld) \$500,000 chemotherapy mixer , Cairns (Qld)</p> <p>MRI licence for Maitland.</p> <p>Medicare licence for PET scanner at Mater Hospital, Hunter region, NSW</p> <p>GP after hours clinic Burnie (Tas).</p> <p>Integrated care centre, including dialysis unit, at Launceston (\$15m).</p> <p>Cancer services in Tasmania – radiation oncology services and PET scanner.</p>



		<p>Funds to set up dedicated prostate cancer research centre at Epworth Hospital, Richmond, Vic. 12/10/2007</p> <p>Establishment of comprehensive cancer centre to be co-located with Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, in association with University of Sydney. 13/10/2007 (\$50m)</p> <p>Funds to upgrade Bacchus Marsh and Melton Regional Hospital, Vic. 25/10/2007 (\$2m)</p> <p>Funding for complex care unit at Maryborough District Health Service (Vic). 26/10/2007 (\$500,000 from RMIF)</p> <p>Teaching, training and research centre at Sunshine Hospital (Vic). 02/11/2007 (\$7m)</p> <p>Primary Care Centre in Bendigo 06/11/2007 (\$5m)</p> <p>Cairns School of Tropical Dentistry, James Cook University. 11/11/2007 (\$52.5m / 4 years)</p> <p>Hunter Dementia and Memory Resource Centre. 12/11/2007 (\$200,000)</p> <p>Long-term funding arrangements for GP Access After Hours, Hunter region.</p> <p>Medicare offices in Belmont, WA and Emerald (Qld)</p> <p>Support for Sisters of Charity mental health outreach service (NW Tas). 16/11/2007 (\$1.25m / 4 years)</p> <p>Grant to support obesity program of Osborne (WA) DGP. 20/11/2007 (\$235,000)</p> <p>Equipment grant for Kempsey District Hospital. 21/11/2007 (\$1m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CT scanner and portable ultrasound machine.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tasmanian initiatives</b></p>	<p>Takeover of Mersey Hospital, Tasmania. 01/08/2007 (\$45m / year)* Takeover timeframe of 1 November will not be met. 31/10/2007</p> <p>Additional hospital measures. 08/10/2007 (\$35m/ 4 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of rehabilitation and transitional care facilities and psychiatric unit at Burnie Hospital (\$35m / 3 years)</li> <li>• Upgrading of oncology, radiotherapy and transitional care facilities and new cardiac care facilities at Launceston Hospital (\$16m / 3 years)</li> </ul>	<p>Support for Tas Govt hospital reforms.</p> <p>Investment in Tasmanian health. 25/09/2007 (\$50m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GP Super Clinic in Devonport (\$5m)</li> <li>• GP Super Clinic eastern shores of Hobart (\$7.5m)</li> <li>• GP after hours clinic Burnie (\$2.5m)</li> <li>• Radiation oncology unit in North/NW (\$7.7m)</li> <li>• PET scanner for RHH (\$3.5m)</li> <li>• Integrated care centre and dialysis unit at LGH (\$15m)</li> <li>• Improves patients transport services (\$10m)</li> <li>• Improved services in Ouse and Roseberry hospitals.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$1m each for Ouse and Roseberry hospitals in 2007-08.</li> <li>• Patient transport services (\$8.5m / 4 years)</li> </ul> <p>Additional funding to Mersey Hospital to replace equipment. 11/10/2007 (\$1m).</p>	<p>Support for Sisters of Charity mental health outreach service (NW Tas). 16/11/2007 (\$1.25m / 4 years)</p>
<b>Northern Territory initiatives</b>	<p>Health checks for all Indigenous children under 16 as part of NT Emergency Response. 05/07/2007</p> <p>Establishment of Remote Area Health Corps as part of NT Emergency Response. 18/09/2007 (\$100m).</p>	<p>Labor will improve health services in the Northern Territory. 05/11/2007 (\$20m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade and expand remote health care facilities (\$10m)</li> <li>• Establish renal dialysis facilities in remote communities (\$5m)</li> <li>• Sexual assault counselling in remote areas (\$4.6m)</li> </ul> <p>Labor will deliver the \$15.9 million for alcohol rehabilitation services promised by Howard Government in June 2006. 05/11/2007</p> <p>GP Super Clinics in Palmerston.</p>

\* Note that MYEFO indicates cost of this at \$51.4m in 2007-08 and \$64m in following years.