

SCORECARD ON GOVERNMENT HEALTH COMMITMENTS

Last updated: September 2008

POLICY AREA	PRE-ELECTION COMMITMENTS	POST-ELECTION COMMITMENTS
Public hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective surgery list reduction plan for public hospitals. States and Territories required to report, hospital by hospital, on reduced waiting times for elective surgery. • Immediate national blitz to clear elective surgery waiting lists in 2008. • Systematic improvements such as construction of additional day surgery units. • Dividend payments to States and Territories that meet reduction targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$600m total - \$200m from the National Health Reform Plan funds. • \$100m • \$200m / 2 years • \$300m
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective surgery waiting list reduction plan. • \$600m / 4 years • Stage 1 - additional funding for immediate reduction in elective surgery waiting lists. Expected to clear 25,000 procedures in 2008-09 • \$155m in 2008-09 (\$75m in 2007-08) • Stage 2 - targeted towards infrastructure improvements in public hospitals that will boost elective surgery capacity. • \$150m in 2009-10 • State and territories to report quarterly on performance. Health Ministers still debating how this will be done. • Up to \$300m in additional funds available from 2009-10 depending on performance



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants and recurrent funding to support health care facilities and improve patient outcomes. Includes funding for: advanced medical technology, improved facilities and services and medical training infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$389.5m/ 5 years
AHCA's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Health Reform Plan to be implemented through AHCAs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New AHCA's to be developed that place more emphasis on prevention and primary health care. To be agreed December 2008, and to commence July 2009 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1 b additional funding (in additional to \$600m for elective surgery reduction plan) that includes: \$500m to be provided by June 2008, indexation from previous agreements. First report from NHHRC <i>Beyond the Blame Game: accountability and performance benchmarks for the next Australian Health Care Agreements</i> released April 2008. AIHW performance indicator set released July 2008.
Aged care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional 2000 transition care beds Interest free loans to aged care providers to build or expand residential aged care facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional 2000 places. 228 allocated for 2008-09. Zero real interest loans (interest at CPI only) to aged care providers to build or expand residential aged care facilities in areas where there are shortages of beds. Will provide up to an additional 2500 aged care beds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$158m / 5 years \$155m / 3 years \$300m in loans- Round 1 began April 2008). 36 providers have been offered loans of \$150m for 1348 new aged care places. Round 2 will commence in late 2008 after a review of the initial round.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and maintain a Ministerial Council on Ageing Announced by COAG 26 March 2008 Establish a National Elderly Commissioner-Ambassador for Ageing Actor Noeline Brown appointed on 12 April 2008 Review planning ratios of aged care places available for elderly Australians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$6.2m / 4 years \$2m/ 4 years \$2m/ 4 years (from existing DoHA budget) 	
Prevention / Health promotion / obesity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kitchen Garden Pilot program Evaluation of successful community initiatives and sharing information with other communities Development and distribution of guidelines on healthy eating and physical activity in early childhood Support for national nutrition and physical activity survey promised by the Howard Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$12.8m / 4 years \$1.7m \$3.5m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kitchen Garden program to be implemented in 190 schools nationally. Call for expressions of interest from potential demonstration schools made August 2008. Obesity reduction – learning from successful community initiatives Healthy Habits for Life Guide – practical advice for parents on encouraging health living in children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$12.8 m / 4 years One-off funding \$60,000 to each school. \$40,000 / yr for 2 years to demonstration schools for garden and kitchen staff. \$1.7m / 4 years \$2.9 m / 2 years

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Healthy Spaces and Places project of Planning Institute of Australia, ALGA, NHF • No ban junk food advertising and use of cartoon characters • Obesity to be a National Health Priority • National Preventative Health Strategy with an expert task force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$700,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding boost for National Tobacco Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15 m / 3 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACMA report 28 August 2008 does not recommend ban on junk food advertising. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Preventative Health Taskforce announced 9 April 2008. Discussion paper by September 2008. Draft strategy for comment by March 2009. Final strategy due June 2009. • Funding from alcopops tax to support prevention – enacting legislation currently help up in the Senate. • Reinvigorate National Tobacco Strategy – funding for media campaign to prevent uptake of smoking amongst young people, smoking cessation programs • National Binge Drinking Strategy – education and information campaign, early intervention, support for successful community initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4.5 m / 5 years • Estimated at \$2b • \$15 m / 4 years • \$14.5 m / 4 years
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Papilloma Virus electronic register 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional \$19m/ 4 years
Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postnatal depression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$85m / 5 years (includes \$20m to ATAPS and \$5m to beyondblue) Will seek contribution of additional \$30m / 5 years from States and Territories. Mental health on COAG agenda Integrated approach to service delivery with States and Territories Support for establishment of Australian National Council on Mental Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postnatal depression – provide training for health professionals, improve treatment for ‘at risk’ women, establish research and data collection processes National Advisory Council on Mental Health established 12 June 2008. Mental Health Nurses Training Subsidy – additional funding to provide up to 1070 new postgraduate and Masters degree scholarships for mental health nurses, 100 of which will be targeted to nurses and 222 for psychologists in rural and remote areas Funding to improve health professionals ability to treat mental illness – 1200 workshops nationwide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ 55 m/ 5 years (\$5m to beyondblue) Australian government will seek \$30 / 5 years from State and Territory governments \$2.4m/ 3 years from existing departmental budgets \$35m/ 4 years \$15m in 2008



<p>Dental health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth Dental Health Care program to help State and Territory governments to reduce public dental health waiting lists • \$290m from abolition of Medicare dental services • Teen Dental Plan - up to \$150 per person for annual preventative check for children 12-17 years in families receiving Family Tax A, or teenagers in the same group who are receiving Youth Allowance or Abstudy • \$510m / 3 years • Establish Cairns School of Tropical Dentistry, James Cook University • \$52.5m / 4 years – including capital funding \$33m • 60 commencing dental places / year • \$11m • Outreach services for student practical training in remote areas • \$8m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth Dental Health Program - to provide 1 million dental treatments • \$290 m / 3 years <p>Requires enactment of legislation which is currently held up in the Senate where Government does not have the votes to pass bill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teen Dental Plan - 1.1 million vouchers will be provided to eligible teenagers annually. To commence July 2008 • \$458 m / 5 years • Capital funding to establish Cairns School of Tropical Dentistry, including 60 dental places each year • \$49.5m
<p>Cancer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional funding for cancer research • \$15m / 3 years • Children's Cancer Centre at Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide • \$15m 	<p>National Cancer Plan, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional funding for cancer research • \$15m / 3 years • Children's Cancer Centre • \$15m / 2 years

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National bowel cancer screening – expanded to include all 50-year olds. Funds for follow-up colonoscopies to be negotiated through AHCAs • \$25m / 3 years • Establish youth cancer network • \$15m • Capital grant towards establishment of Olivia Newton-John Cancer centre at Austin Hospital, Melbourne • \$15m • Funds to set up two dedicated prostate cancer research centres – one to be located at Epworth Hospital, Richmond, Vic. • \$15m / 5 years • Establishment of comprehensive cancer centre to be co-located with Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, in association with University of Sydney • \$50m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Bowel Cancer Screening Program – continuation and expansion • \$87.2 m / 4 years • Youth cancer networks • \$15m / 3 years • Olivia Newton John Cancer Centre • \$15m / 2 years • 2 prostate cancer research centres • \$ 12m / 4 years • Comprehensive Cancer Centre (Sydney) • \$50m / 3 years • Additional funding for National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers • \$5.1m/ 3 years • Breast prostheses • \$31m / 5 years • 15 new MRI locations announced with priority for public hospitals
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Maternal and child health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Kids Check – new MBS item with \$45 Medicare rebate for eyesight, hearing, height and BMI check for 4 year olds. • \$35m / 4 years • Funding to Australian breast feeding Association to set up national toll-free 24 hour phone line • \$2m / 4 years • Maternity reform - review MBS to include midwives in provision of maternity care; facilitate the expansion of midwife-led care; develop a national maternity services plan to ensure national coordination of maternal services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Kids Check for 4 year olds July 1, 2008 • \$25.6m / 4 years • 24 hour breastfeeding hotline • \$2.5 m / 5 years • Develop antenatal guidelines in conjunction with the NHMRC, and state and territory governments. • Commence development of a national strategic framework to improve health of young people 2008-09. • Discussion paper on maternity services released September 2008.
Workforce	<p>Nursing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Commonwealth Nursing officer • Aim to train and attract back 9250 nurses / 5 years • \$81m/ 5 years • Cash bonuses of \$6,000 to encourage 7,750 nurses who return to hospital workforce with contribution of \$1,000 / re-entry nurse to hospital for retraining 	<p>Nursing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosemary Bryant announced as Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer 23 June 2008. • \$1.2m / 4 years • Supporting 8,750 nurses back into the workforce over 5 years (7,750 to hospitals, 1,000 to residential aged care) – cash bonuses of \$6000 for nurses who are returning after more than 1 year out of the workforce. \$3000 paid • \$39.4m / 5 years

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 new university places in 2008, and 1000 / year from 2009 (at least 400 of which to go to universities offering clinical experience in regional and rural hospitals and 25% of these places to ENs looking to upgrade • Expanded scholarships program - National Priority Scholarships in areas such as nursing, medicine, dentistry, allied health. \$2120 / year for up to 4 years • Greenslopes Private Hospital (Brisbane, Qld) – funding to establish clinical school • \$13m 	<p>after 6 months, \$3000 after 18 months back in the workforce. Hospitals to receive \$1000 per re-entry nurse to assist with costs of retraining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional higher education nursing places - increase places by 90 starting in July 2008, then 1170 in 2009 • \$99.5 m / 4 years • Scholarships for a competitive future – increase scholarships from 44,000 to 88,000 by 2012 in priority areas (including nursing) • \$238.6m/ 4 years • McGrath Foundation to recruit, train and employ 30 specialist breast cancer nurses • \$12 m/ 4 years • Greenslopes Private Hospital (Brisbane, Qld) – funding to establish clinical school • \$13m/ 2 years
Indigenous health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of health services in the NT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrade and expand remote health care facilities • \$10m • \$20m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundign provided in 2007-8 Additional Estimates • \$21.9 million

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish renal dialysis facilities in remote communities • \$5m ○ Sexual assault counselling in remote areas • \$4.6m • Alcohol rehabilitation services • \$15.9m (this money was committed by Howard Govt in 2006) • Indigenous Mums and Bubs Health Initiative, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comprehensive child and maternal health services • \$87 m plus \$75m from States and Territories ○ Accommodation services for women who travel to have their baby • \$92m ○ Accommodation services for women who travel to have their baby • \$10m • Reducing rheumatic fever • \$10m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth alcohol diversion activities for NT • \$9.5m in 2008-09 • Expansion of drug and alcohol services • \$49.3m / 4 yrs • Child and maternal health services • \$90.3m/5 years with additional \$75m sought from States and Territories. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$58m for health education, treatment ○ \$32.2m for home visits by nurses. • \$10m /3 years • National unit to coordinate efforts • \$11.2m / 5 years <p>Other programs and funding announced in 2008-09 Budget as part of NTER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creches • \$2.3m in 2008-09 • School nutrition program • \$7.4m in 2008-09 • Follow-up to health check • \$13.6m in 2008-09 • Indigenous tobacco initiative • \$14.5m / 4 years
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<p>Rural health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of Specialist Obstetrician Locum Scheme – to improve access to specialist obstetrician care for rural women • Reform of Rural Medical Infrastructure Fund • Double number of John Flynn scholarships from 150 to 300, starting 2009 (a program of financial assistance to medical students who undertake placements in rural and remote areas) • Australian Allied Health Rural and Remote Clinical Placement Scholarship Plan - to support allied health students to take placements in rural and remote communities • Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program – improves access to specialist services in rural and remote areas by providing funding to support the provision of specialist services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion from \$500,000 to \$2m / year in 2008-09 (\$6m) • \$2.5m • \$2.5m / 3 years • \$9m / 3 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Obstetrician Locum Scheme • Merging of Rural Medical Infrastructure Fund and Rural Private Access Programs to form National rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program • Additional funding for John Flynn Placement Program - additional 150 places per year so that program increases from 600 in 2008 to 1200 in 2012 • Australian Allied Health Rural and Remote Clinical Placement Scholarship Program • Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program • Establish Office of Rural Health to drive Australian Government's reform agenda • Review of rural health programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ 7.9m / 4 years • \$4.6m / 4 years • \$2.5m/ 3 years • \$12m/ 4 years
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<p>Medicare/health system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Health Reform Plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GP Super clinics ○ National Health and Hospitals Reforms Commission through COAG to: devise a long-term health reform plan that will: reduce inefficiencies; better integrate and co-ordinate care; focus more attention on prevention; improve the provision of health services in rural and remote areas; improve Indigenous health outcomes; and provide a well qualified and sustainable health workforce in the future. • Re-examination of AIRWG • Examining incentives for GPs to practice preventive health care • Review if MBS to alleviate red tape • Retain Medicare safety net 	<p>National Health Reform Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish 31 GP Super Clinics • Establish National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission Final report due July 2009. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a National Primary Health Care Strategy to help strengthen the primary health system. It will review and simplify Medicare arrangements so that it encourages preventive care • Expand National Health Call Centre Network so can provide advice 24 hours a day 7 days a week • Grants to new and existing after hours GP services to assist with operating costs
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New MBS items - allow GPs to directly refer patients for a MRI of the knee or brain
PHI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain PHI rebates at current levels, Lifetime Health Cover and Medicare Levy Surcharge, but examine thresholds No sale of Medibank Private 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medicare Levy Surcharge thresholds – increase from \$50,000 annual income to \$100,000 for singles and \$100,000 to \$150,000 for families <p>Enacting legislation currently held up in Senate where Government does not have the numbers to pass the bill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sale of Medibank Private will not proceed
Pharmaceuticals		<p>Extended listings on PBS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remicade • \$25.5m/ 4 years Topamax • \$39.1m/ 4 years <p>Major new listings on PBS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Champix • \$97.1m/ 5 years Renagel • \$65.2m/ 4 years Sensipar • \$166.4/ 4 years Tysabri • \$370.2m/ 4 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Means-tested subsidy for approx. 700 insulin pumps for Type 1 diabetics under 18 years • \$5.5m/ 4 years Statutory price reductions for multiple brand medicines and some single brand medicines that are interchangeable with



		<p>other medications begins 1 August 2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>Local announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRI machine and licence and chemotherapy mixer Cairns (Old) • \$500,000 • MRI licence for Maitland • Medicare licence for PET scanner at Mater Hospital, Hunter region, NSW • GP after hours clinic Burnie (Tas) • Integrated care centre, including dialysis unit, at Launceston • \$15m • Cancer services in Tasmania – radiation oncology services and PET scanner • Commitment to improve services at Ouse and Roseberry hospitals • \$10m • Improved patient transport services in Tasmania 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive bidding process commenced • \$1m <p>Considered as part of GP SuperClinics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15m • \$10m



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching and training infrastructure at Flinders Medical Centre (SA) • \$23m (includes \$5m for GP super clinic) • Additional funds for Grafton Base Hospital • \$235,000 • Grant to support obesity program of Osborne (WA) • Fast track completion of radiotherapy services at Lismore Base Hospital • \$15m • Support for Sisters of Charity mental health outreach service (Tas) • \$1.25m / 4 years • Funds to upgrade Bacchus Marsh and Melton Regional Hospital (Vic) • \$2m • Funding for complex care unit at Maryborough District Health Service (Vic) • \$500,000 from RMIF • Teaching, training and research centre at Sunshine Hospital (Vic) • \$7m • Primary Care Centre in Bendigo • \$5m • Hunter Dementia and Memory Resource Centre • \$200,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$18m • \$235,000 over 4 yrs • \$3.5m for Integrated Cancer Centre • \$1.3m over 4 years • \$500,000 • \$7m • \$200,000
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term funding arrangements for GP Access After Hours, Hunter region • Medicare offices in Belmont, WA and Emerald (Qld) • \$1m • Equipment grant for Kempsey District Hospital - CT scanner and portable ultrasound machine • \$7.7m • Radiation oncology unit in North/NW Tas • \$3.5m • PET scanner for Royal Hobart Hospital • Integrated care centre and dialysis unit at Launceston General Hospital • \$15m 	
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* Note that MYEFO indicates cost of this at \$51.4m in 2007-08 and \$64m in following years.