



# HEALTH FEDERAL POLICY



## WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe all people should have the same access to healthcare regardless of where they live.

Over decades, changing health services in regional areas have contributed to a decline in life expectancy and a higher rate of preventable deaths. Indigenous Australians are overrepresented in these shorter lives and preventable deaths.

This happened at the same time as the centralisation of services, difficulty in recruiting and retaining health staff in regional areas, and a risk averse shift in health bureaucracy that has resulted in less basic services being available in regional areas.



# OUR ACTION PLAN

## **Aged Care**

Aged people should be able to remain within their own communities as they age.

Infrastructure investment from State Governments, and recurrent staffing costs from Federal Government. A change in principles around how determinations are made for the establishment or growth of aged care facilities in NSW. The key principle being how we can help people to age within their communities. This should include an increased focus on in home support, keeping aged couples together at home and staged transition living arrangements from independence to aged care beds in hospitals.

## **Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule (PBS)**

Access to affordable medications, especially for high risk and low-income patients.

Broadening the support for and range of PBS subsidised medications based on geographical areas and demographic information.

## **Supporting and regulating private health insurance**

More people with affordable private health cover.

Higher subsidy to at risk groups and certain geographical areas where health outcomes are below comparable demographics in city and well populated coastal areas.

## **Health and Welfare data**

Accessible information on the health outcomes (Primary Health, life



## OUR ACTION PLAN - con.

expectancy, rates of illnesses and preventable death data in different geographical areas.

Create easy to use dashboard where validated health information can be accessed by postcode, town or LGA.

### **Health Research**

Understand the reasons for inequitable health outcomes in regional areas for all cohorts. Develop plans to lift health outcomes in regional areas to match those in the city and coastal areas.

Task National Health and Medical Research Council to develop terms of reference acceptable to Regional Health experts. Additional funding to conduct audit of regional health services based on the agreed terms of reference. Use findings to develop an action plan that addresses shortfalls.

### **Maintain the number of Doctors in regional Australia**

Doctors are available for all funded positions.

Rationing Medicare Numbers, accelerated HECS reduction for Regional Service, increased employment benefits (Leave, remote work on paper days etc...)

### **National Immunisation Program**

Greater access to medicines and vaccines in areas with worse health outcomes.

Based on health performance data (life expectancy, preventable deaths, rates of illness etc...) ensure that the most vulnerable cohorts have priority



## OUR ACTION PLAN - con.

in accessing treatments.

### **Therapeutic Goods Administration**

Increased access to medicines and medical devices in areas that have poorer health outcomes.

Higher subsidy to at risk groups and certain geographical areas where health outcomes are below comparable demographics in city and well populated coastal areas.

### **Hearing Services**

People in regional areas are not disadvantaged in regards to accessing hearing services.

Focus on subsidising mobile and fully subsidised hearing services in regional areas.

### **Access to organ and tissue transplants and blood products**

People in regional NSW have equitable, timely access to organ and tissue transplants. People in regional NSW have equitable access to blood products.

Develop better regional storage for organ, tissue and blood products. Increase the availability of subsidised blood donation services in regional areas.

### **National responses to health emergencies, including pandemics**

Australia is proactive and prepared for international virus threats.



## OUR ACTION PLAN - con.

Establish 24-hour, 7 day a week 365 day of the year Health Emergency and Pandemic control centre. Constant scanning of international developments, and early advice to state health agencies on developments and risk mitigation.