

Patients *before* Profits



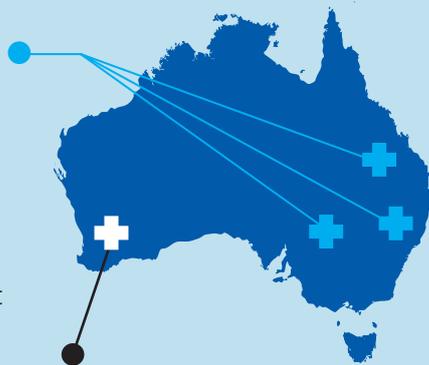
Public-Private Partnerships Facts at a Glance

PPP's have a history of failure in OZ



Privatised public hospitals (Public-private partnerships) have had a history of failure in Australia. Experts estimate this as being **in excess of 50 per cent**¹.

Port Macquarie Base Hospital in New South Wales, La Trobe Regional Hospital in Victoria, and Queensland's St Vincent's Hospital at Robina all had to be **BOUGHT BACK** by State Government's at taxpayers' expense, after mismanagement by private operators.



Fiona Stanley Hospital in WA, operated by private corporation Serco, has been plagued by problems, costing taxpayers millions of dollars. The Barnett Government recently announced it would strip Serco of providing key clinical services and these jobs would revert back to the WA Health Department.



A parliamentary committee has released a report confirming the hospital is already **\$330 MILLION OVER BUDGET**. This blowout includes **an extra \$52.7 million** to Serco.

The Queensland Government has revised a decision to privatise the entire Sunshine Coast University Hospital, after admitting: "the private sector can't match the public service on cost."

Joondalup Health Campus in WA, operated by Ramsay Health, is often referenced by state politicians as the shining example of a successful public-private hospital operated by a private corporation. The fundamental reason for the corporation to do so is to make a profit for shareholders out of public funding. The NSWNMA believes that the profit should be fully available for public health delivery not for the benefit of shareholders.

The population in Joondalup is roughly 152,401, while the new Northern Beaches Hospital will need to cater for a population of 427,910 (almost triple) which is projected to grow 15.3 per cent by 2025. Can a corporation understand the health needs of a growing population?

¹ Duckett, Stephen. "Public-private hospital partnerships are risky business." *The Conversation*
² Collyer 1997: 30, based on NSW DoH, 1997-98

Australia has a world-class public health system



When Port Macquarie Base Hospital (PMBH) was run by a private entity, costs were **20 PER CENT HIGHER** than those in similar public sector hospitals.



At the time, performance indicators between PMBH and other public hospitals showed elective surgery waiting times were **double the state average** and it was the state's **WORST PERFORMING PUBLIC HOSPITAL**.



PMBH had the state's largest number of patients with waiting times **longer than a year**.²



Australia's universal health care system is one of the best in the world and key comparisons with other OECD countries reveal that Australians enjoy **a higher level of population health status**. (OECD Better Life Index – 2013)



Currently, Australia's total health spending accounts for **8.9 per cent of GDP** which is **less than the OECD average, of 9.4 per cent**.



Among advanced economies, the US spends most on healthcare, is the **LEAST EFFICIENT** and has **WORST PATIENT OUTCOMES**.



A heavily privatised health system **will not** deliver efficiencies in health and will only lead to higher costs overall.