

8 May 2016

### “A healthy Australia supported by the best possible health system”

As Australians prepare to elect the 45<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliament, the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) calls on all candidates to commit to working together for a healthy Australia supported by the best possible health system.

The Australian healthcare system is built on a solid foundation, with Medicare and strong public healthcare and hospital sectors providing the basis for universal access to quality healthcare services.

A priority for the incoming 45<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliament must be to ensure that our health system provides affordable, accessible quality care to all Australians with sustainable funding.

Australia’s healthcare system consistently outperforms other OECD countries when comparing key health indicators and costs, but burdens such as an ageing population, increased rates of chronic and complex disease and new medical technologies and treatments are increasing the cost of healthcare. The challenge for the healthcare system is to manage the delivery of care as effectively and efficiently as possible, while governments must ensure that the necessary resources are made available to deliver this care.

The Commonwealth Government has a vital role to play in the stewardship of the health system and must demonstrate a commitment to better integrated and coordinated patient-centred care across the primary, acute, aged and disability care sectors.

The AHHA calls on all candidates to commit to an innovative patient-centred health system founded in well-resourced prevention and primary care, and integrated effectively with the hospital and aged care sectors.

The AHHA calls on all parties to work constructively to achieve an effective contemporary healthcare system supporting a healthy Australia. Healthcare is a top priority for Australians and must also be a top priority for their elected representatives.

The AHHA will assess the health policies of the Coalition, Labor and the Greens against a set of guiding principles and publish a scorecard ranking their commitment to effective healthcare reform. Criteria will include whether proposed policies will improve health outcomes and support equity, accessibility and sustainability in the broader Australian health system.

***AHHA is Australia’s national peak body for public hospitals and health care providers. Our membership includes state health departments, Local Hospital Networks and public hospitals, community health services, Primary Health Networks and primary healthcare providers, aged care providers, universities, individual health professionals and academics. As such, we are uniquely placed to be an independent, national voice for universal high quality healthcare to benefit the whole community.***