



GENERAL PRACTICE AND PRIMARY CARE

Reclaiming the Agenda

GP Liaison Officer National Conference
Prof Kirsty Douglas



The agenda today

- Hospital Avoidance
- Outpatients
- Discharge Communication

GP Liaison Units

- raise awareness of the services and medical expertise available
- providing a comprehensive education program for GPs
- to assist GPs with access to hospital services

GP Liaison Units

- improve communication between hospital and General Practice.
- develop links and opportunities for collaboration
- so that patient access to services is improved and outcomes enhanced.

Challenges of the Health care system

- Ageing population
- Increasing multi-morbidity
- Greater expectations
- Rising costs

- **UNSUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

Waste in the Health Care system

Medical

- Over diagnosis and over treatment
 - Disease definitions
 - Poor clinical guidance
 - Cancer screening
 - Radiology
- Unwarranted variation in care
- Profit driven corporate models

Government

- Technology savings not realised

- Pharmacy
- Surgical (cataract)

Non EB health system interventions

- Super clinics
- After hours telephone services
- Hospital based primary care services



Australia's Health 2013-14 - Hospitals

- 26 million OPD services
 - 11 million – nurses/allied health
 - 9 million – medical specialists
- 9.7 million admissions to hospital
 - 3/5 to public, 2/5 to private
 - 53% female, 4% ATSI, 40% >65yrs
 - 20% surgery, 59% day stay admission (1.3 million for dialysis), 25% emergency admissions, 126,000 ICU

Increasingly Hospital centric

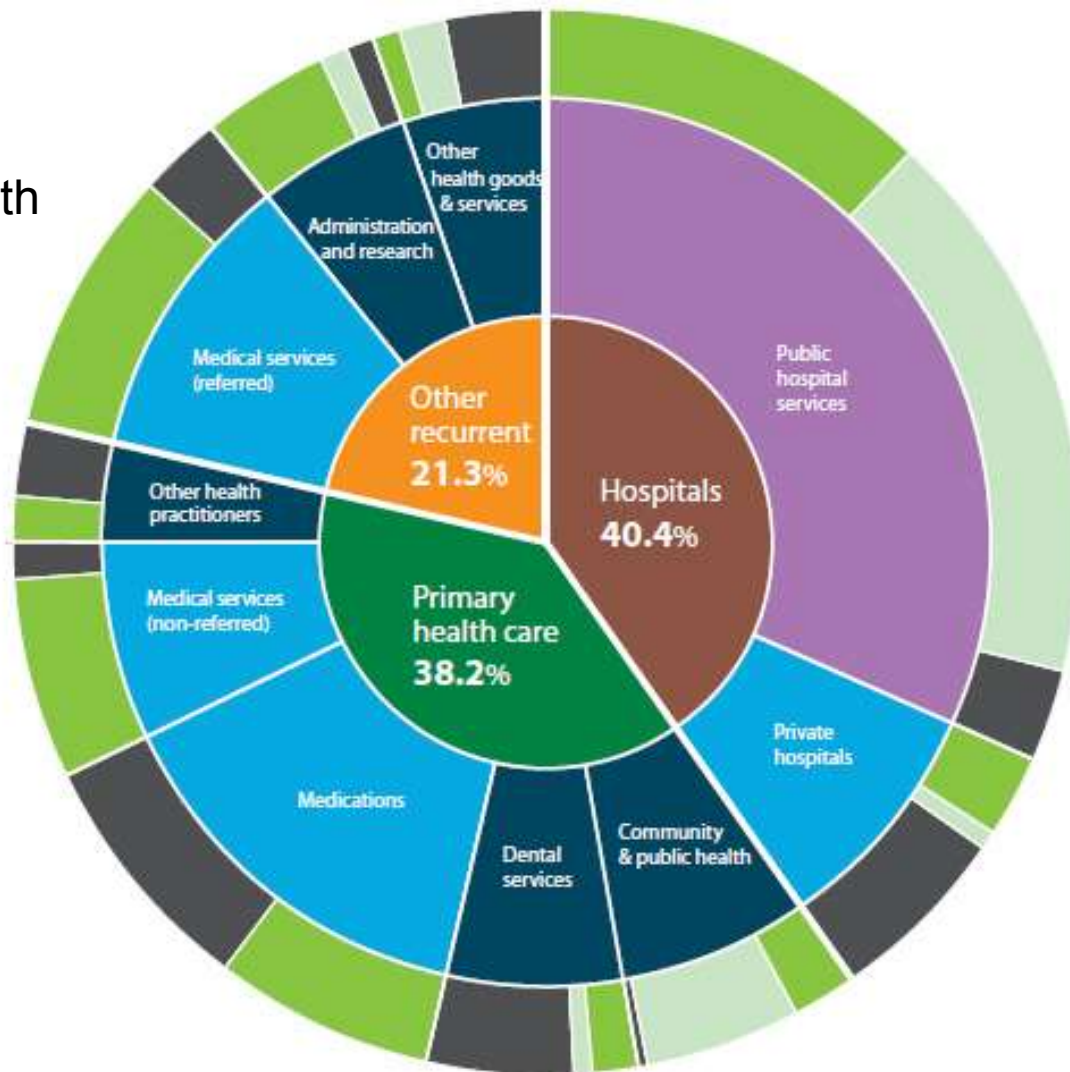
- Ambulances go direct hospitals
- Increasing A&E department use
- Increasing hospital admission rates
- Hospital care for palliation, end of life care, multi-morbidity and aged care
- Change in discharge arrangements
- Funding incentives – IHPA
 - Ambulatory care payments 2-6 times what they pay through MBS with lower claims criteria



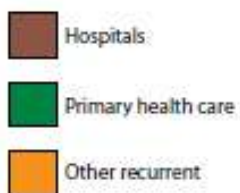
Hospital based health system

Primary health care system

AIHW
Australia's Health
2014



Share of expenditure



Responsibility for services



Funding

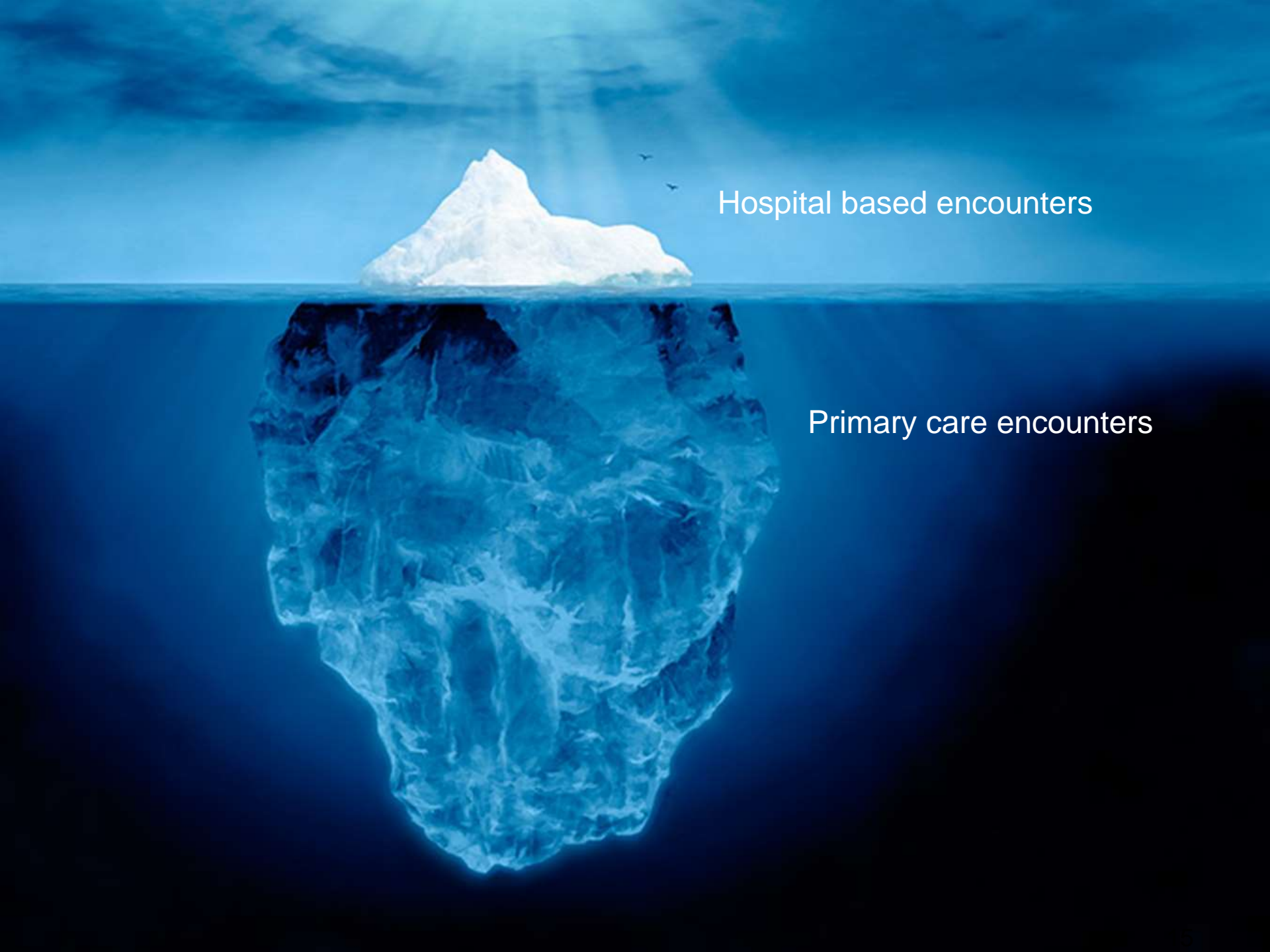


Australia's Health 2013-14 – General Practice

- 115 million GP services billed to MBS
- 31,000 GP's
- Ave 4.5 visits per person per year
- 40% consultations managed > 1 problem
- avge consultation length 12 minutes
- prescription in 83% encounters
- Referrals to med spec in 9.5/100 encounters, allied health 4.9/100 and hospital 0.5/100

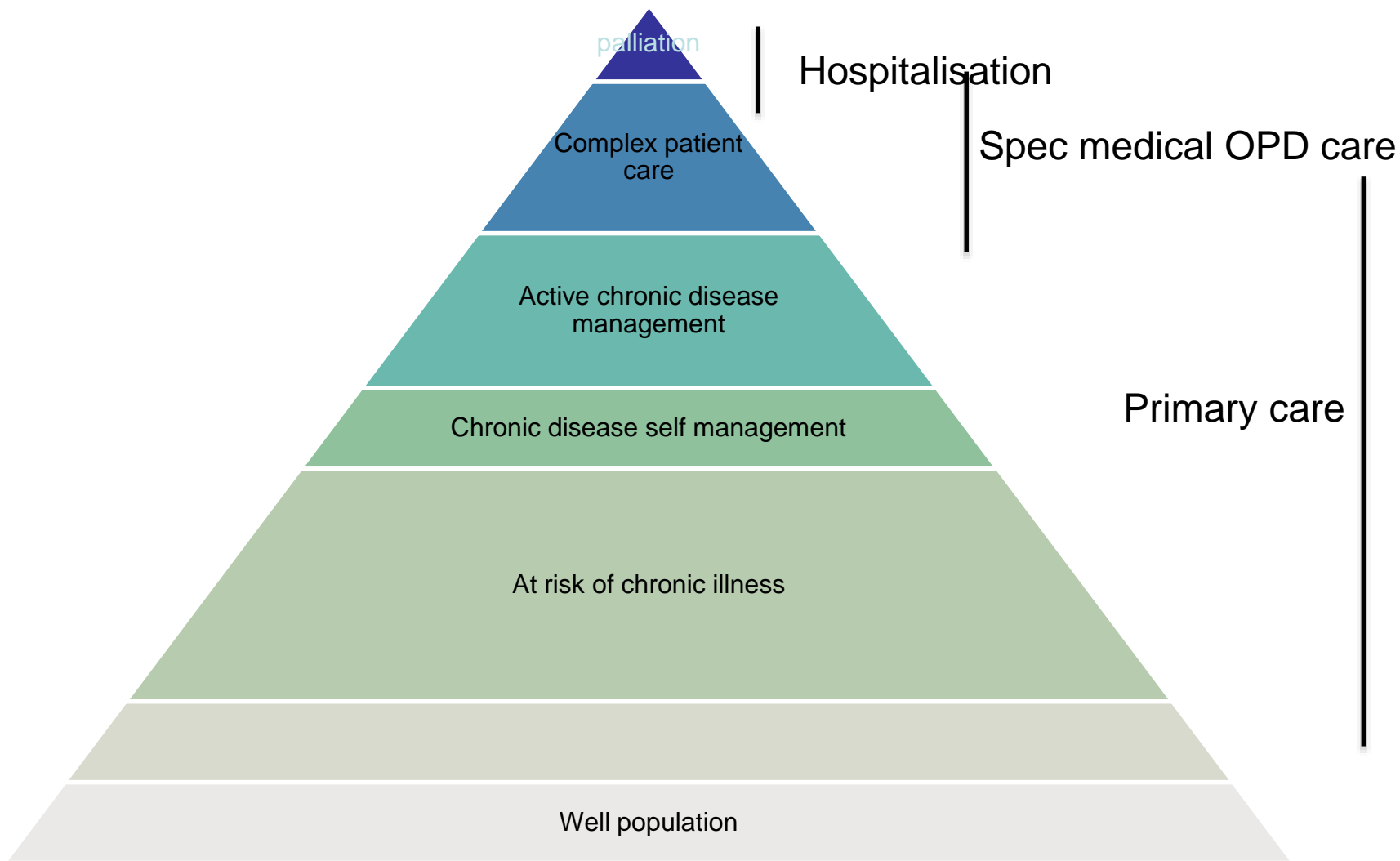
Comparison

- 12.8% of those aged 15 yrs + admitted to hospital in previous 12 months & 14.3% visited an ED
- 82.2% of those aged 15+ saw a GP at least once in the previous 12 months.



Hospital based encounters

Primary care encounters





GP and Primary care are significant players in terms of size of the sector

Value to the system

- Good primary care is associated with
 - Better health outcomes
 - Lower costs
 - Greater equity
 - Greater patient satisfaction

Barbara Starfield

Comparison of Hospital & GP payments for same/similar services

Medical consultation	IHPA payment	MBS payment for GP
Preanaesthetic assessment & evaluation Specialist	\$291	\$36/\$72
Specialist obstetric clinic	\$222	\$36
Midwifery & maternity	\$255	
Alcohol & other drugs	\$156	\$36
Sexual health (nurse/allied health)	\$185.48	\$36
Wound management (excludes complex wound management)	\$245	\$36



GP & Primary Care provide good care
and excellent value

What makes GP work

- person centred,
- continuing,
- comprehensive
- coordinated whole person health care
- to individuals and families in their communities
- Even more important in complex multimorbidity



Sue, Fred, Jeff

Kurt Stange

- integrating, prioritizing, contextualizing, and personalizing health care across acute and chronic illness, psychosocial issues and mental health, disease prevention, and optimization of health and meaning.

William Osler 1849-1919

- “It is more important to know what sort of person has a disease than to know what sort of disease a person has.”



GP Liaison



General practice and primary care....

Essential to the health and wellbeing of
Australians

Its not just about hospital avoidance