Principles for an Optimal Healthcare System

Australia has a high quality health system delivering world-class health outcomes for many.

However for some groups health outcomes are poor, and as the population ages, rates of chronic disease increase and consumer demand grows, the health system is under increasing pressure.

A framework to support the development of effective health policy will assist governments to respond to these challenges.

AHHA POSITION:

Health policy, and all reforms, must:

- Focus on, and be responsive to, patient needs and health outcomes

- Simplify the patient journey

- See health as an investment, not just as a cost

- Be developed in consultation with service providers, professions and the community, taking into account impacts across the continuum of care

- Be sustainable and sustained, reducing inefficiency and waste, and providing value for money

- Be evidence-based and data informed

- Incorporate structured, timely and transparent evaluation

- Support accountability and transparency

- Support prevention and early intervention

- Support equity

- Recognise and accommodate cultural diversity

- Include change management strategies and associated incentives

- Incorporate the contributions of the primary, community and acute health care sectors, the education and training sector and the public, private and not-for profit sectors

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