



australian healthcare &  
hospitals association

*the voice of public healthcare®*



# **AHHA RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT ACEM STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2024**

Submission  
28 January 2022



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## OUR VISION

A healthy Australia, supported by the best possible healthcare system.

## OUR MISSION

To conduct research, educate and influence the healthcare system to achieve better health outcomes, improved patient and provider experience, greater equity and sustainability.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Healthcare in Australia should be:

Effective  
Accessible  
Equitable  
Sustainable  
Outcomes-focused.

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## OUR CONTACT DETAILS

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**BACKGROUND..... 2**

Response ..... 2

**PRIORITY 1: Education ..... 2**

**PRIORITY 2: Member support and wellbeing ..... 2**

**PRIORITY 3: Equity through advocacy ..... 3**

**PRIORITY 4: Research..... 3**

**PRIORITY 5: Standards ..... 3**

**PRIORITY 6: Organisational sustainability ..... 3**



## BACKGROUND

The following feedback was provided via an online portal in response to the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) releasing the consultation draft at <https://acem.org.au/Consultations/ACEM-Strategic-Plan-2022-2024-Consultation>.

## RESPONSE

The Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the ACEM Strategic Plan 2022-2024 – *Building on Success*.

AHHA is a longstanding supporter of ACEM enjoying a strong relationship developed through experiences of working closely and collaboratively to promote combined strategic system priorities, highlighted through ACEM's ongoing full membership of the AHHA. We look forward to continuing to work with you as we build on the close relationship between our two organisations.

As you will be aware, AHHA is Australia's national peak body for public hospitals and healthcare providers. Our membership includes state and territory health departments, Local Hospital Networks (LHNs) and public hospitals, community health services, Primary Health Networks (PHNs) 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. We appreciate the opportunity to provide ACEM with feedback on this strategy, as we feel the direction aligns closely with the AHHA mission of creating a healthy Australia supported by the best possible health system.

To achieve a healthy Australia supported by the best possible healthcare system, and as outlined in AHHA's blueprint for health reform, AHHA recommends Australia reform the healthcare system over the next 10 years by enabling person-centred, outcomes-focused, and value-based health care. This requires:

1. A nationally unified and regionally controlled health system that puts people at the centre;
2. Performance information and reporting that is fit for purpose
3. A health workforce that exists to serve and meet population health needs
4. Funding that is sustainable and appropriate to support a high-quality health system.

It is within this context, and the context of the initiatives in the [National Health Reform Agreement \(NHRA\) – Long-term health reforms roadmap](#), that the above feedback has been provided. We acknowledge that some feedback may be more applicable to the Business Plan that will be released subsequently. Overall, AHHA strongly commends the whole-of-system focus and approach adopted by ACEM throughout this strategic plan.

### PRIORITY 1: EDUCATION

The AHHA commends the emphasis on meeting population and community needs through education and training initiatives, in addition to the other initiatives listed within this priority, as a measure to develop an integrated health workforce that exists to serve and meet population needs. We think that this priority could be strengthened with the inclusion of education and training initiatives promoting team-based and outcomes-based care practices.

### PRIORITY 2: MEMBER SUPPORT AND WELLBEING

The focus on strengthening workforce culture and environment to support the wellbeing and career sustainability of members and trainees is highly commended, particularly considering the hardship



the workforce has faced during the pandemic. The priorities to engage with stakeholders and to support members and stakeholders to engage, is also commended.

### PRIORITY 3: EQUITY THROUGH ADVOCACY

The AHHA advocates for the inclusion of patient-centred and outcomes-based health care research and solutions into this priority's actions, as it is important to improving access, equity and health outcomes. In addition, strengthening the integration and coordination of emergency medicine with other stakeholders in the health system to improve equity, access and outcomes through team-based and digitally-enabled models of care would reinforce this priority. We commend the focused action on disaster preparedness and response evidence development.

### PRIORITY 4: RESEARCH

The AHHA praise this priority's action to understand the experiences of care of marginalised and vulnerable groups. We think that in an additional dot point this should be further expanded to the whole population and strongly advocate for value-based or outcomes-based health care to be explicitly mentioned in this priority section. For research to help improve patient outcomes, researchers should be empowered to undertake system focused, outcomes-based (or value-based) research following value-based health care principles and practices. Additionally, researchers and physicians should be supported to obtain the knowledge and skills to inform care improvement via the collection and reporting of patient-reported experience and outcome measures (PREMS and PROMS).

### PRIORITY 5: STANDARDS

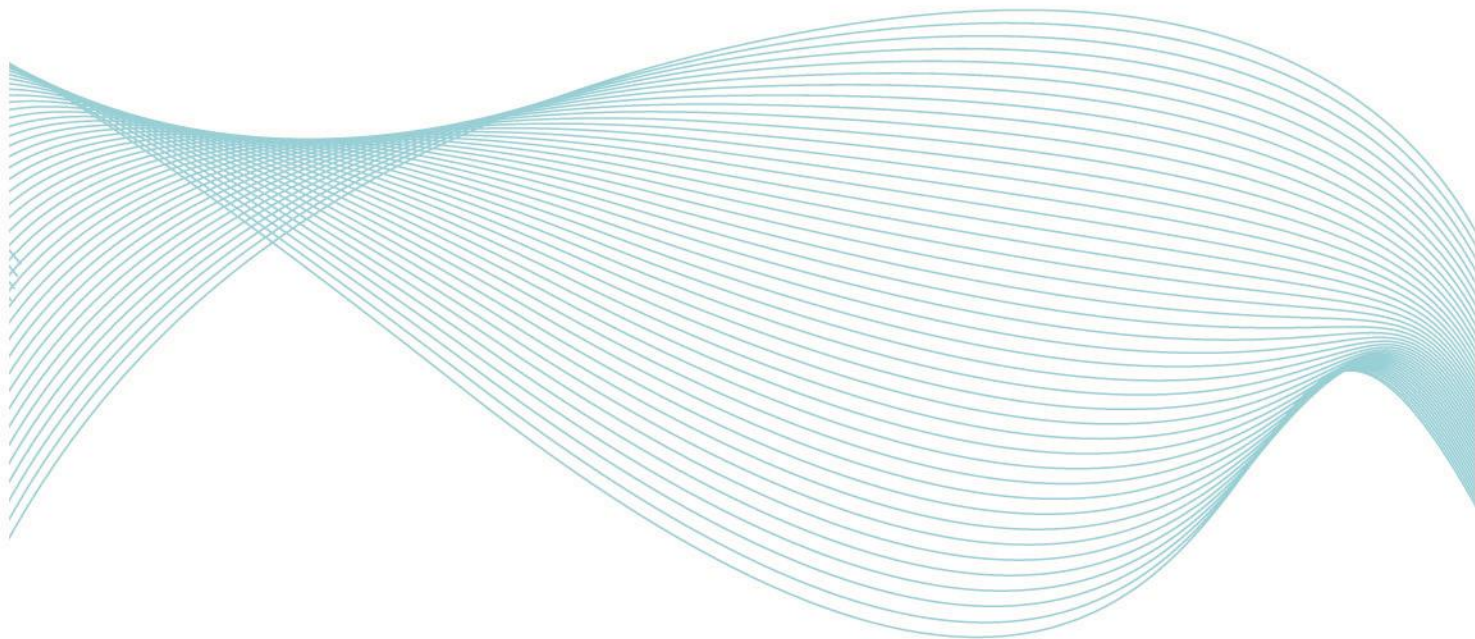
The AHHA supports all actions listed in this priority, and particularly commends the person-centred and collaborative focus of points 4, 5 and 6.

### PRIORITY 6: ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

The AHHA supports all actions listed in this priority, and particularly commends the social responsibility and environmental sustainability objective of point 6. More information about our position and recommendations for sustainability in healthcare can be read in our brief '*Transforming the health system for sustainability: Environmental leadership through a value-based health care strategy.*'<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Hoban E, Haddock R, Woolcock K 2021, Issues brief: Transforming the health system for sustainability: Environmental leadership through a value-based health care strategy, Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research, [https://ahha.asn.au/system/files/docs/publications/deeble\\_issues\\_brief\\_no\\_41\\_transforming\\_the\\_health\\_system\\_for\\_sustainability\\_2.pdf](https://ahha.asn.au/system/files/docs/publications/deeble_issues_brief_no_41_transforming_the_health_system_for_sustainability_2.pdf)



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