



Australian Health Care Reform Alliance

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MEDIA RELEASE

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AHCRA congratulates new Minister for Health

The Australian Health Care Reform Alliance (AHCRA) congratulates the new Minister for Health and Sport, Greg Hunt, and looks forward to working together with him and his ministerial colleagues to improve the equity and efficiency of Australia's health system.

"While Australia's health system has many strengths, there are a number of population groups who have problems accessing the care they need. These groups include people on low incomes, Indigenous Australians and those living in rural and remote areas," AHCRA Chair, Jennifer Doggett, said today.

"This inequitable access to health care undermines the integrity of our health system and the overall health and well-being of our community. The AHCRA Executive is also concerned about areas of inefficient resource use within our health system. These include areas where funding has been allocated in a way which reflects the priorities of providers, governments and funders, rather than people.

"Reducing inefficiency will improve health outcomes and free up resources to address areas of need, such as improving access for those most in need. We believe this should be a high priority for the Government.

"Other high priority areas for AHCRA are Indigenous health, preventive health and the health workforce, the Health Care Homes pilot project, changes to public dental services funding arrangements, the roll-out of the Primary Healthcare Networks, the MBS Review and the 5th Mental Health Plan.

"AHCRA believes that these initiatives should be progressed via a consultative and person-centred approach which recognises the impact of the broad social determinants of health, such as housing, employment and community support," Ms Doggett said.

AHCRA is a coalition of health groups, including consumer, provider and service delivery organisations, working together to improve the health system for Australia's future.

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For more information about AHCRA: www.healthreform.org.au