



Australian Health Care Reform Alliance

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National Health Commission - making it work



AHCRA supports the need for major reform of our health system to move away from the fragmented and provider-centred approach of our current system to one which delivers more equitable and person-centred care.

We support the need for an independent body to oversee these reforms, such as the Australian Health Reform Commission, recently announced by Labor as part of its pre-election policy platform.

Shadow Health Minister Catherine King stated that this body would address challenges such as chronic disease, cost barriers, long hospital waiting times and workforce shortages.

AHCRA agrees that a national independent body is required to ensure big reforms were not undermined by changes in government, the political cycle and cost shifting between state and commonwealth governments.

However, we believe that this new body will not be effective unless it has some ability to influence change. If its only role is to advise governments on needed reforms it will be no different to the many other advisory committees and inquiries which have repeatedly recommended changes to our health system and have been ignored by governments.

For genuine reforms to occur we need an independent with funding, standard setting or regulatory responsibilities so that it cannot be ignored by governments.

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