

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Health care costs Australia about \$87billion per year. 68% of this is from State & Federal governments. (ABS)

Since 2003 the Federal contribution to government health funding has dropped to 44% while State funding has increased to 48%. (AMA)

Out-of-pocket expenses for a GP visit have increased 68% since 1997. (ANJ)

There is a steady decline in the number of nurses working in aged care, while numbers of aged care patients are increasing. Aged care nurses earn on average \$250/week less than other nurses. (ANJ)

40% of nurses will retire in the next 10-15 years. (ANJ)

600,000 Australians are currently waiting for dental care. (ANJ)

Rural, Indigenous and low-income communities are less well-provided with health services than wealthier urban communities. Mental health care is also particularly under-funded.

Federal funding subsidises private health insurance premiums by a 30% rebate).

Approximately 43% of Australians have private health cover. 18% of private health incidents incur a 'gap' fee to the patient (27% in WA) (ABS/ PHIA)

The thresholds to access the Medicare Safety Net have 'risen sharply' since it was introduced in 2004.

(AMA) The need for a safety net demonstrates Medicare's inability to cover medical expenses.