

# HEAR OUR VOICE POLICY STATEMENTS

## HEALTH

Hear Our Voice believes that quality health care is a basic human right and it should be available to all Australians irrespective of a person's circumstances and income.

Hear Our Voice supports the public health care system, Medicare, and believes it is the best way of delivering health care to community members, and therefore should be maintained and enhanced for the benefit of all Australians.

Hear Our Voice believes that Medicare, not private health insurance, should be the focus of Government funding and development, but we also support the right to choose a medical provider of your choice.

Hear Our Voice supports bulk billing and initiatives that will encourage health care providers to bulk bill their patients, and to increase access to GP services, Hear Our Voice support an increase in the number of salaried GPs.

Hear Our Voice believes that for a health system to be effective it must be based on primary and preventive health care. To alleviate the pressure on hospitals, health promotion programs/activities, disease prevention and early intervention programs are considered essential.

Hear Our Voice believes that Australians have the right to take part in the management of their health care.

Hear Our Voice believes that complimentary medicine and alternative therapies have a place in Australia's health system. We believe these medicines and therapies should be rigorously tested to ensure safety and effectiveness, and practitioners should be appropriately trained and qualified.

Hear Our Voice supports funding for preventive care programs, multidisciplinary networks and health and medical services co-located together.

Hear Our Voice supports increased funding for mental illness services and programs, and we support increased funding to community-based support services to enhance the help given to people living with mental illness and their carers.

Hear Our Voice strongly supports a preventive health agenda which includes screening programs and health promotion education.

Hear Our Voice believes that all women should have free access to pregnancy termination services, and to unbiased counseling services.

Hear Our Voice believes that women should have access to a full range of birthing services regardless of location.

Hear Our Voice supports medical research that is beneficial to individuals and society, and we believe appropriate funding should be given to research projects that have the potential of helping humanity.

Hear Our Voice supports stem cell research as it has the potential to alleviate human suffering and help countless people throughout the world who live with a range of illnesses, conditions and mobility disorders.

Hear Our Voice supports high quality training for health and medical personnel, and we believe in providing appropriate support, training and locum services for health care workers in remote, rural and regional areas.

Hear Our Voice believes that high quality health and medical care should be accessible to people who live in remote, rural and regional Australia, and we support initiatives that encourage health and medical personnel to work in these areas.

Hear Our Voice supports the re-introduction of on-the-job training for nurses rather than academic training because we are concerned that the current education regime has lead to a shortage of nurses and drop in standards of care in hospitals. Hear Our Voice believe that nurses should receive professional level certification for on-the-job training.

Hear Our Voice believes that dental services should be accessible to all Australians. We support the full funding of a national dental scheme for people on low incomes, including people receiving government support. We believe services for low income earners and their families should include not only essential dental care when required but also a dental examination every two years.

Hear Our Voice supports the protection and enhancement of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), and we believe that low income earners living with long-term chronic illnesses should have access to PBS medicines at the concession rate.

Hear Our Voice supports free needle exchange programs and safe injecting clinics for drug users. Hear Our Voice supports harm minimization initiatives and practices and we believe that drug users are people who need our support not condemnation. Hear Our Voice believes that appropriate counseling and

rehabilitation services should be available and accessible for drug users and their families.