



Budget 2026-27

This information is accurate as of 12 May 2026.

National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) – hospital funding and Commonwealth investment in the public hospital system

CATEGORY: Health and disability

This measure will increase funding transparency and help patients make an informed decision when choosing to be treated as either:

- a private patient (with cost subsidised by various government programs such as the MBS)
- a public patient (with the cost fully met by the hospital, which in turn is funded via the NHRA).

There will also be further requirements for states and territories in the 2026-31 NHRA Addendum. These are:

- introduce a mechanism to review MBS and NHRA interactions, and selectively restore NHRA cost weights
- introduce direct data sharing
- expand patient election requirements
- introduce regulation of Rights of Private Practice (RoPP)
- introduce an ability to audit compliance with patient election and RoPP requirements
- strengthen existing NHRA clauses.

This will limit the causes of duplicate payments and cost shifting between the MBS and NHRA funding streams by providing patients with informed financial consent.

This measure is led by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

This measure isn't subject to legislation passing.

Who this measure affects

This affects state public health services and staff, clinicians utilising RoPP and patients accessing state run health services.

When this starts and finishes

This measure starts from 1 July 2027 and will end on 30 June 2031.