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**PUBLIC HOSPITAL CRISIS WILL BE A FEDERAL ELECTION ISSUE,  
 SAYS AMA**

*AMA puts Federal Government on notice over public hospital funding*

Our public hospitals are at crisis.

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) has called out Federal politicians saying they can no longer push the crisis in Australia’s public hospitals onto the states alone, saying this national emergency needs a national response.

AMA President, Dr Omar Khorshid told delegates attending National Conference, the AMA will campaign during the next Federal Election for a national funding response to the public hospital crisis.

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into crisis onto the states to srt opo the stpitals ignore that they can no longer put the federal government on niI have told the Prime Minister and Health Minister, the Opposition Leader and Shadow Health Minister that the AMA will

Ramping, Emergency Department overrun, and elective surgery waiting blowouts are contributing to avoidable mortality. Ramping, ED pressure, and longer than recommended surgery wait times are considered the domains of State and Territory Governments. They are, and we can’t let State and Territory Governments off the hook, particularly in my home State of WA where our State government is the only government in Australia projecting a budget surplus this year.

Yet public hospitals are federally funded too. Public hospital pressures are occurring nationally. A national response is needed. I was astounded when the PM and Opposition Leader both told me several weeks back they do not intend to prioritise additional public hospital funding.

Every Australian needs to know the PM and Opposition Leader, along with their respective Minister and Shadow Minister, don’t see public hospitals as their problem.

The Federal Government and Opposition don’t see patients waiting in an ambulance to get into an Emergency Department as their problem. They don’t see stretched doctors and nurses in overrun Emergency Departments as their problem. They don’t see patients waiting years for simple surgeries as their problem.

I say this to Prime Minister Morrison and Opposition Leader Albanese. Every patient unable to be admitted to hospital in an emergency, every patient suffering some inconvenience or incapacity waiting for a surgery, and every doctor or nurse working above and beyond in a stretched public hospital system is your problem.

To Mr Morrison and Mr Albanese I extend my offer to work on a solution to better resource the nation’s public hospital system in advance of the next election being called. Alternatively, I’ll spend every day of the next election campaign calling out failings in Federal funding for hospital care.

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