

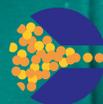


Australian public hospitals in logjam

2023



AMA



CLEAR THE
HOSPITAL
LOGJAM

OVERVIEW

Chronic underfunding of public hospitals at both state and territory and Commonwealth level has led to declining hospital performance. In the last few years we have increasingly heard stories of people dying waiting to be seen in public hospitals that are operating at breaking point, patients waiting years for essential surgery, and ambulances ramping outside hospitals because there are not enough beds and staff to cope with demand. Australia urgently needs a recovery plan to address the backlog of elective surgeries, build enough capacity to meet the growing needs of the community, and clear the hospital logjam.

Analysis methodology

Data on public hospital performance was sourced from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare [MyHospitals](#) information portal. Hospital performance data was downloaded from this portal for each public hospital across Australia, and the analysis was performed using data from 2021–22.

Two performance categories were used for all hospitals to assess performance:

1. Emergency department performance: the percentage of patients who commenced treatment within the recommended time for each urgency category:
 - Resuscitation (Triage Category 1): requires treatment immediately
 - Emergency (Triage Category 2): requires treatment within 10 minutes
 - Urgent (Triage Category 3): requires treatment within 30 minutes
 - Semi-urgent (Triage Category 4): requires treatment within 1 hour
 - Non-urgent (Triage Category 5): requires treatment within 2 hours
2. Elective surgery: the percentage of patients who received their surgery within the clinically recommended time for each urgency category:
 - Urgent (Category 1): Needing treatment within 30 days
 - Semi-urgent (Category 2): Needing treatment within 90 days
 - Non-urgent (Category 3): Needing treatment within 365 days

For each performance metric, hospitals were given a “traffic light” rating:

- **Green:** where performance was 95% or higher (i.e. 95% of patients received care within the clinically recommended time)
- **Amber:** where performance was unknown or between 85% and 94% (i.e. 85-94% per cent of patients received care within the clinically recommended time)
- **Red:** where performance was 84% or below (i.e. less than 84% of patients received care within the clinically recommended time)

All effort has been made to ensure correct representation of the data. The AMA has not altered the reported figures for any hospital. Hospitals without sufficient data to report, condition-specific hospitals (e.g. mental health hospitals), hospitals that do not report on both emergency department and elective surgery performance, and hospitals that do not report on the same basis as other hospitals were excluded. This resulted in 201 public hospitals being included in the analysis. Where performance was unable to be ascertained for a particular category, a value of “0” was allocated. It should also be noted that the elective surgery waiting list in regional hospitals does not capture all surgery, as many surgeries are undertaken at major hospitals. For regional areas, the examination of on-time performance should also consider the closest major hospital.



NEW SOUTH WALES

Emergency department performance

	Category 1: Resuscitation	Category 2: Emergency	Category 3: Urgent	Category 4: Semi-urgent	Category 5: Non-urgent
The Children's Hospital at Westmead	100	76	68	76	85
Sydney Children's Hospital	100	81	73	64	89
St Vincent's Hospital [Darlinghurst]	100	80	68	77	95
Canterbury Hospital	100	92	77	79	97
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	100	79	79	85	98
Concord Repatriation Hospital	100	90	78	83	97
Fairfield Hospital	100	90	85	83	93
Liverpool Hospital	100	72	79	88	98
Campbelltown Hospital	100	99	89	88	97
Bankstown Lidcombe Hospital	100	98	68	75	94
Bowral Hospital	100	90	85	88	96
Sydney Hospital / Sydney Eye Hospital	0	100	75	86	98
Prince of Wales Hospital	100	63	68	80	92
St George Hospital NSW	100	75	68	84	98
Sutherland Hospital	100	78	73	82	94
Milton Ulladulla Hospital	100	78	80	84	96
Shoalhaven Hospital	100	72	63	72	91
Wollongong Hospital	100	89	78	81	94
Shellharbour Hospital	100	83	64	71	88
Auburn Hospital	100	79	72	79	97
Blacktown Hospital	100	48	53	69	90
Mount Druitt Hospital	100	68	63	72	95
Westmead Hospital	100	63	56	60	83
Blue Mountains Hospital	100	83	82	79	92
Nepean Hospital	100	54	58	78	94
Lithgow Hospital	100	84	84	87	96
Hornsby Kuringgai Hospital	100	87	77	82	96
Royal North Shore Hospital	100	71	71	79	93
Ryde Hospital	100	82	83	82	92
Gosford Hospital	100	69	42	47	76
Wyong Hospital	100	58	44	54	81
Armidale Hospital	100	80	63	55	84
Glen Innes Hospital	100	94	92	80	91
Gunnedah Hospital	100	99	90	92	97
Inverell Hospital	100	80	78	77	90
Moree Hospital	100	83	79	82	95
Narrabri Hospital	100	100	89	94	99
Tamworth Hospital	100	62	57	53	75



NEW SOUTH WALES

Emergency department performance (continued)

	Category 1: Resuscitation	Category 2: Emergency	Category 3: Urgent	Category 4: Semi-urgent	Category 5: Non-urgent
Gloucester Soldiers' Memorial Hospital	0	91	89	93	98
Manning Hospital	100	87	77	75	89
Cessnock Hospital	100	91	69	65	76
Kurri Kurri Hospital	0	98	99	100	100
Maitland Hospital	100	69	55	47	64
Muswellbrook Hospital	100	91	83	82	96
Calvary Mater Newcastle	100	89	80	79	83
Belmont Hospital	100	76	71	70	81
Scott Memorial Hospital, Scone	0	95	88	81	93
Singleton Hospital	100	94	86	79	94
John Hunter Hospital	100	84	67	70	81
Ballina District Hospital	100	75	71	75	94
Casino and District Memorial Hospital	100	75	71	70	94
Grafton Base Hospital	100	78	66	71	92
Lismore Base Hospital	100	78	56	61	84
Macleay District Hospital	100	76	78	77	97
Murwillumbah District Hospital	100	76	81	86	96
The Tweed Hospital	100	84	75	85	98
Bellinger River District Hospital	0	92	95	96	99
Coffs Harbour Hospital	100	75	63	69	89
Kempsey District Hospital	100	82	82	87	96
Macksville District Hospital	100	97	90	85	93
Port Macquarie Base Hospital	100	83	76	82	97
Batemans Bay Hospital	100	81	80	86	95
South East Regional Hospital	100	82	75	75	89
Cooma Hospital and Health Service	100	84	86	90	97
Goulburn Base Hospital	100	74	66	71	0
Moruya Hospital	100	67	76	86	95
Queanbeyan Hospital	100	95	87	84	96
Corowa Health Service	100	86	96	99	100
Deniliquin Hospital	100	100	100	100	100
Young Hospital	100	99	97	98	99
Griffith Base Hospital	100	100	73	75	90
Leeton Hospital	100	86	92	96	97
Narrandera Hospital	100	98	99	100	100
Temora Hospital	0	96	95	99	100
Tumut Hospital	100	98	93	97	99



NEW SOUTH WALES

Emergency department performance (continued)

	Category 1: Resuscitation	Category 2: Emergency	Category 3: Urgent	Category 4: Semi-urgent	Category 5: Non-urgent
Wagga Wagga Hospital	100	79	67	78	95
Cootamundra Hospital	100	97	86	92	99
Bourke Multi Purpose Service	0	56	82	94	99
Coonabarabran Health Service	100	63	85	95	99
Dubbo Hospital	100	79	76	82	96
Mudgee Health Service	100	69	72	76	89
Bathurst Base Hospital	100	78	76	84	94
Cowra Health Service	100	90	93	97	99
Lachlan Health Service Forbes	100	91	88	90	96
Orange Health Service	100	92	73	74	92
Lachlan Health Service Parkes	100	83	86	90	96
Broken Hill Hospital	100	77	76	80	93
Byron Central Hospital	100	78	85	91	97
Northern Beaches Hospital	100	79	74	80	99



NEW SOUTH WALES

Elective surgery performance

	Category 1: Urgent	Category 2: Semi-urgent	Category 3: Non-urgent
The Children's Hospital at Westmead	100	72	77
Sydney Children's Hospital	100	77	73
St Vincent's Hospital [Darlinghurst]	99	57	54
Canterbury Hospital	100	100	82
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	100	99	97
Concord Repatriation Hospital	100	65	79
Fairfield Hospital	99	56	44
Liverpool Hospital	100	67	50
Campbelltown Hospital	100	55	51
Bankstown Lidcombe Hospital	100	60	67
Bowral Hospital	100	78	49
Sydney Hospital / Sydney Eye Hospital	100	56	42
Prince of Wales Hospital	100	66	50
St George Hospital NSW	100	69	57
Sutherland Hospital	100	78	72
Milton Ulladulla Hospital	0	0	0
Shoalhaven Hospital	100	66	51
Wollongong Hospital	100	72	53
Shellharbour Hospital	99	93	80
Auburn Hospital	100	68	56
Blacktown Hospital	100	68	64
Mount Druitt Hospital	100	73	60
Westmead Hospital	100	69	55
Blue Mountains Hospital	100	97	86
Nepean Hospital	100	73	56
Lithgow Hospital	91	62	54
Hornsby Kuringgai Hospital	99	93	84
Royal North Shore Hospital	100	77	67
Ryde Hospital	100	95	71
Gosford Hospital	98	59	42
Wyangong Hospital	98	69	34
Armidale Hospital	100	99	99
Glen Innes Hospital	100	100	N/A
Gunnedah Hospital	100	100	100
Inverell Hospital	100	97	69
Moree Hospital	100	100	100
Narrabri Hospital	100	100	100
Tamworth Hospital	100	98	98



NEW SOUTH WALES

Elective surgery performance (continued)

	Category 1: Urgent	Category 2: Semi-urgent	Category 3: Non-urgent	
Gloucester Soldiers' Memorial Hospital	100	100	100	100
Manning Hospital	100	92	86	86
Cessnock Hospital	100	97	99	99
Kurri Kurri Hospital	100	100	100	100
Maitland Hospital	100	93	81	81
Muswellbrook Hospital	100	98	99	99
Calvary Mater Newcastle	100	100	100	100
Belmont Hospital	100	96	95	95
Scott Memorial Hospital, Scone	100	100	100	100
Singleton Hospital	100	99	100	100
John Hunter Hospital	100	85	85	85
Ballina District Hospital	85	70	93	93
Casino and District Memorial Hospital	90	90	97	97
Grafton Base Hospital	96	74	72	72
Lismore Base Hospital	91	50	47	47
Macleay District Hospital	0	0	100	100
Murwillumbah District Hospital	96	92	98	98
The Tweed Hospital	100	86	91	91
Bellingen River District Hospital	0	0	97	97
Coffs Harbour Hospital	100	83	62	62
Kempsey District Hospital	100	96	94	94
Macksville District Hospital	94	90	90	90
Port Macquarie Base Hospital	100	86	80	80
Batemans Bay Hospital	0	0	100	100
South East Regional Hospital	99	94	80	80
Cooma Hospital and Health Service	100	89	99	99
Goulburn Base Hospital	100	90	80	80
Moruya Hospital	100	100	100	100
Queanbeyan Hospital	97	93	97	97
Corowa Health Service	0	100	100	100
Deniliquin Hospital	95	82	100	100
Young Hospital	100	100	100	100
Griffith Base Hospital	100	98	98	98
Leeton Hospital	0	0	100	100
Narrandera Hospital	0	0	0	0
Temora Hospital	0	98	100	100
Tumut Hospital	0	95	0	0



NEW SOUTH WALES

Elective surgery performance (continued)

	Category 1: Urgent	Category 2: Semi-urgent	Category 3: Non-urgent
Wagga Wagga Hospital	99	95	81
Cootamundra Hospital	100	100	100
Bourke Multi Purpose Service	0	100	47
Coonabarabran Health Service	0	0	0
Dubbo Hospital	98	75	51
Mudgee Health Service	96	98	99
Bathurst Base Hospital	100	96	57
Cowra Health Service	98	85	65
Lachlan Health Service Forbes	92	94	63
Orange Health Service	100	94	74
Lachlan Health Service Parkes	100	87	92
Broken Hill Hospital	90	64	73
Byron Central Hospital	0	0	0
Northern Beaches Hospital	100	94	83



VICTORIA

Emergency department performance

	Category 1: Resuscitation	Category 2: Emergency	Category 3: Urgent	Category 4: Semi-urgent	Category 5: Non-urgent
University Hospital Geelong	100	62	43	51	83
South West Healthcare [Warrnambool]	100	73	59	57	83
Ballarat Health Services [Base Hospital]	100	37	32	46	78
The Bendigo Hospital	100	62	64	72	89
Goulburn Valley Health [Shepparton]	100	50	44	64	85
Northeast Health Wangaratta	99	70	60	73	94
Albury Wodonga Health [Wodonga Campus]	0	65	68	74	93
West Gippsland Healthcare Group [Warragul]	100	49	64	72	94
Lalor Regional Hospital [Traralgon]	100	74	57	66	90
Box Hill Hospital	100	75	79	82	90
Monash Medical Centre [Clayton]	100	20	34	58	87
Maroondah Hospital [East Ringwood]	100	70	70	75	90
Angliss Hospital	100	85	88	90	94
Sandringham Hospital	100	64	64	73	91
Dandenong Hospital	100	35	50	66	90
Frankston Hospital	100	62	61	71	85
Casey Hospital	100	23	39	60	88
The Alfred	100	58	55	68	88
Austin Hospital [Heidelberg]	100	74	77	77	87
Mercy Hospital for Women	0	82	92	79	97
Western Hospital [Footscray]	100	41	48	61	87
Royal Children's Hospital [Parkville]	100	68	75	59	84
Royal Women's Hospital [Parkville]	100	75	83	80	94
The Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital	0	46	83	91	98
The Northern Hospital [Epping]	100	72	50	68	89
Werribee Mercy Hospital	100	47	32	46	76
Royal Melbourne Hospital [City Campus]	100	53	73	80	92
Sunshine Hospital	100	52	53	69	89
St Vincent's Hospital [Melbourne]	100	42	37	56	86
Williamstown Hospital	0	88	87	79	91



VICTORIA

Elective surgery performance

	Category 1: Urgent	Category 2: Semi-urgent	Category 3: Non-urgent
University Hospital Geelong	100	73	89
South West Healthcare [Warrnambool]	100	67	83
Ballarat Health Services [Base Hospital]	100	67	75
The Bendigo Hospital	100	58	77
Goulburn Valley Health [Shepparton]	100	71	93
Northeast Health Wangaratta	100	87	89
Albury Wodonga Health [Wodonga Campus]	100	56	91
West Gippsland Healthcare Group [Warragul]	100	77	97
Latrobe Regional Hospital [Traralgon]	100	79	95
Box Hill Hospital	100	55	63
Monash Medical Centre [Clayton]	100	47	57
Maroondah Hospital [East Ringwood]	100	63	65
Angliss Hospital	100	30	70
Sandringham Hospital	100	68	82
Dandenong Hospital	100	45	47
Frankston Hospital	100	41	65
Casey Hospital	100	38	75
The Alfred	100	71	82
Austin Hospital [Heidelberg]	100	51	76
Mercy Hospital for Women	100	35	55
Western Hospital [Footscray]	100	49	88
Royal Children's Hospital [Parkville]	100	46	61
Royal Women's Hospital [Parkville]	100	23	57
The Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital	100	69	89
The Northern Hospital [Epping]	100	51	75
Werribee Mercy Hospital	100	46	55
Royal Melbourne Hospital [City Campus]	100	55	72
Sunshine Hospital	100	53	84
St Vincent's Hospital [Melbourne]	100	55	71
Williamstown Hospital	100	47	67



QUEENSLAND

Emergency department performance

	Category 1: Resuscitation	Category 2: Emergency	Category 3: Urgent	Category 4: Semi-urgent	Category 5: Non-urgent
Mater Adult Hospital	100	50	37	52	82
The Prince Charles Hospital	100	66	43	62	91
Princess Alexandra Hospital	100	42	60	86	99
Ipswich Hospital	100	42	50	67	88
Redcliffe Hospital	100	74	46	58	96
Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital	100	75	64	71	87
Redland Hospital	100	68	64	74	91
Logan Hospital	100	47	51	65	84
Caboolture Hospital	99	71	60	78	92
Nambour General Hospital	100	79	79	91	99
Gold Coast University Hospital	100	50	62	90	92
Bundaberg Base Hospital	97	40	43	55	84
Gympie Hospital	100	77	56	73	95
Hervey Bay Hospital	100	81	52	51	75
Maryborough Hospital	100	62	53	53	85
Toowoomba Hospital	100	74	54	72	90
Gladstone Hospital	100	77	79	86	92
Rockhampton Hospital	100	53	56	71	92
Mackay Base Hospital	99	93	74	85	96
Townsville University Hospital	100	73	73	77	94
Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital	100	53	57	79	99
Cairns Hospital	100	68	67	69	89
Mount Isa Base Hospital	100	85	76	75	98
Robina Hospital	100	56	72	93	91
Queensland Children's Hospital	100	85	76	85	96
Sunshine Coast University Hospital	100	66	71	79	95



QUEENSLAND

Elective surgery performance

	Category 1: Urgent	Category 2: Semi-urgent	Category 3: Non-urgent
Mater Adult Hospital	98	77	86
The Prince Charles Hospital	99	94	98
Princess Alexandra Hospital	93	68	79
Ipswich Hospital	98	82	81
Redcliffe Hospital	94	86	89
Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital	94	83	81
Redland Hospital	84	76	84
Logan Hospital	97	81	71
Caboolture Hospital	97	91	95
Nambour General Hospital	82	55	77
Gold Coast University Hospital	96	82	81
Bundaberg Base Hospital	99	88	91
Gympie Hospital	74	75	93
Hervey Bay Hospital	91	82	88
Maryborough Hospital	97	98	97
Toowoomba Hospital	99	82	75
Gladstone Hospital	96	98	97
Rockhampton Hospital	88	72	74
Mackay Base Hospital	91	71	72
Townsville University Hospital	83	64	67
Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital	96	76	80
Cairns Hospital	88	74	80
Mount Isa Base Hospital	96	89	99
Robina Hospital	100	89	91
Queensland Children's Hospital	98	63	73
Sunshine Coast University Hospital	70	50	53



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Emergency department performance

	Category 1: Resuscitation	Category 2: Emergency	Category 3: Urgent	Category 4: Semi-urgent	Category 5: Non-urgent
King Edward Memorial Hospital	94	55	55	57	85
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	100	76	36	50	82
Osborne Park Hospital	0	0	0	0	0
Joondalup Health Campus (Public)	100	70	19	32	68
Royal Perth Hospital Wellington Street Campus	100	60	19	35	72
Fremantle Hospital and Health Service	0	0	0	0	0
Armadale-Kelmscott Memorial Hospital	99	82	23	52	89
Rockingham General Hospital	100	70	18	31	68
Peel Health Campus	100	71	21	36	73
Broome Hospital	99	91	75	58	81
Derby Hospital	98	68	85	90	96
Kununurra Hospital	98	75	86	92	98
Hedland Health Campus	100	75	71	72	94
Carnarvon Hospital	100	63	74	85	0
Geraldton Hospital	100	52	45	53	94
Narrogin Hospital	100	90	76	75	90
Northam Hospital	100	74	64	69	88
Esperance Hospital	100	86	82	83	95
Kalgoorlie Health Campus	98	56	56	62	0
Albany Hospital	100	62	66	80	94
Bunbury Hospital	100	84	43	59	89
Busselton Health Campus	100	62	66	77	96
Fiona Stanley Hospital	100	59	20	38	72
St John of God Midland Public Hospital	100	68	15	36	81
Perth Children's Hospital	100	83	48	59	92
Karratha Health Campus	98	86	77	64	87



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Elective surgery performance

	Category 1: Urgent	Category 2: Semi-urgent	Category 3: Non-urgent	
King Edward Memorial Hospital	90	82	98	98
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	86	71	82	82
Osborne Park Hospital	74	76	92	92
Joondalup Health Campus (Public)	86	86	87	87
Royal Perth Hospital Wellington Street Campus	91	62	56	56
Fremantle Hospital and Health Service	78	68	81	81
Armadale-Kelmscott Memorial Hospital	93	87	92	92
Rockingham General Hospital	66	54	87	87
Peel Health Campus	95	87	94	94
Broome Hospital	99	97	97	97
Derby Hospital	77	77	97	97
Kununurra Hospital	94	96	89	89
Hedland Health Campus	98	94	92	92
Carnarvon Hospital	55	82	100	100
Geraldton Hospital	87	78	88	88
Narrogin Hospital	84	95	99	99
Northam Hospital	0	98	100	100
Esperance Hospital	98	90	89	89
Kalgoorlie Health Campus	83	83	85	85
Albany Hospital	94	82	77	77
Bunbury Hospital	88	79	87	87
Busselton Health Campus	98	80	98	98
Fiona Stanley Hospital	79	59	67	67
St John of God Midland Public Hospital	97	69	81	81
Perth Children's Hospital	93	65	59	59
Karratha Health Campus	99	90	100	100



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Emergency department performance

	Category 1: Resuscitation	Category 2: Emergency	Category 3: Urgent	Category 4: Semi-urgent	Category 5: Non-urgent
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital	100	57	39	50	73
Royal Adelaide Hospital	100	50	41	55	77
Lyell McEwin Hospital	100	51	25	30	64
Modbury Hospital	100	44	33	51	81
Women's and Children's Hospital	83	78	35	46	84
Port Lincoln Health Service	95	93	92	91	97
Mount Barker District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital	94	91	97	99	100
Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital	99	99	99	99	100
South Coast District Hospital	100	97	99	100	100
Port Pirie Regional Health Service	99	89	75	76	91
Port Augusta Hospital and Regional Health Services	100	95	89	87	98
Whyalla Hospital and Health Services	90	69	75	85	96
Riverland General Hospital	97	99	100	100	100
Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service	100	83	68	77	94
Flinders Medical Centre	99	20	19	41	76
Noarlunga Hospital	99	51	27	50	86
Gawler Health Service	88	94	96	97	99



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Elective surgery performance

	Category 1: Urgent	Category 2: Semi-urgent	Category 3: Non-urgent
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital	77	32	57
Royal Adelaide Hospital	76	35	41
Lyell McEwin Hospital	96	49	55
Modbury Hospital	95	62	69
Women's and Children's Hospital	100	50	58
Port Lincoln Health Service	94	99	100
Mount Barker District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital	98	97	96
Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital	95	84	92
South Coast District Hospital	100	99	99
Port Pirie Regional Health Service	92	88	95
Port Augusta Hospital and Regional Health Services	96	99	100
Whyalla Hospital and Health Services	99	100	100
Riverland General Hospital	98	96	99
Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service	94	93	100
Flinders Medical Centre	96	69	71
Noarlunga Hospital	99	71	80
Gawler Health Service	97	98	99



TASMANIA

Emergency department performance

	Category 1: Resuscitation	Category 2: Emergency	Category 3: Urgent	Category 4: Semi-urgent	Category 5: Non-urgent
Royal Hobart Hospital	100	100	28	43	74
Launceston General Hospital	99	99	43	63	89
North West Regional Hospital	99	99	62	68	91
Mersey Community Hospital	98	98	73	81	95

Elective surgery performance

	Category 1: Urgent	Category 2: Semi-urgent	Category 3: Non-urgent
Royal Hobart Hospital	62	40	62
Launceston General Hospital	63	45	65
North West Regional Hospital	75	22	39
Mersey Community Hospital	73	71	86



NORTHERN TERRITORY

Emergency department performance

	Category 1: Resuscitation	Category 2: Emergency	Category 3: Urgent	Category 4: Semi-urgent	Category 5: Non-urgent
Royal Darwin Hospital	100	48	33	51	81
Alice Springs Hospital	100	80	66	58	91
Tennant Creek Hospital	100	74	83	92	98
Katherine Hospital	100	53	67	74	91
Gove Hospital	100	77	78	84	94

Elective surgery performance

	Category 1: Urgent	Category 2: Semi-urgent	Category 3: Non-urgent
Royal Darwin Hospital	74	44	46
Alice Springs Hospital	85	74	90
Tennant Creek Hospital	0	0	0
Katherine Hospital	80	56	70
Gove Hospital	83	71	85



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Emergency department performance

	Category 1: Resuscitation	Category 2: Emergency	Category 3: Urgent	Category 4: Semi-urgent	Category 5: Non-urgent
The Canberra Hospital	100	77	32	43	72
Calvary Public Hospital Bruce	100	67	39	52	79

Elective surgery performance

	Category 1: Urgent	Category 2: Semi-urgent	Category 3: Non-urgent
The Canberra Hospital	98	49	64
Calvary Public Hospital Bruce	99	64	88

THE SOLUTION

Urgent reform of public hospital funding is needed. The AMA's vision is for a new funding approach to supplement the current focus on activity-based funding — one that includes funding for positive improvement, increased capacity, and reduced demand, and puts an end to the blame game.

While broader reform is needed in the long term, the AMA is calling for targeted reforms that are needed right now to stem the public hospital crisis. This includes:

Increase funding and the funding cap

The Commonwealth contribution should increase to 50 per cent for activity (as per current COVID-19 partnership agreement), with states and territories to use the 5 per cent of 'freed-up' funds on improvement. The annual growth cap (6.5 per cent) on the Commonwealth's contribution should be removed, allowing funding to meet demand for hospital services.

Address demand

Activity-based funding should still be the funding model for the majority of people, but should be supplemented by an alternative model of care better designed for holistic treatment of patients with chronic and complex disease. Some alternative models of care have been trialled, but time and money are needed to support and scale successful pilot projects to state-wide services, and enable further trials of innovative models of care. The Commonwealth should partner with the states and territories to provide additional up-front funding for this purpose. Return on investment would be realised through reduced public hospital costs, over time. Improved patient outcomes would also be achieved through reduced admissions and re-admissions.

Improve performance

Select pay-for-performance targets should be reintroduced and monitored with the goal of at least reversing the decline in public hospital performance. This Commonwealth funding would be in addition to, and separate from, activity-based funding. In the short term there should be immediate Commonwealth funding targeting ED performance and capacity improvement, noting that some state and territory governments have undertaken reviews into what is required, but there is not a mechanism for large scale/state-wide cost sharing of this work with the Commonwealth, within the parameters of the current hospital funding agreement.

Expand capacity

States and territories should use the 5 per cent of 'freed-up' funds to invest in evaluation and improvement activities to increase their capacity through improved processes. Public hospitals should also be given additional funding to expand their capital infrastructure where needed. The Commonwealth Government should fund this in partnership with the states and territories, in the knowledge that it will improve both hospital efficiency and patient outcomes. This additional money could be allocated on a match funding basis, following proposals from the states and territories.



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