

Health Portfolio Changes

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In the 2014-15 Budget, the Australian Government announced changes to the Commonwealth health portfolio to streamline the management of policy and programmes, reduce duplication between government agencies and drive efficiencies.

To implement its initiatives, the Government committed to:

Transfer essential functions of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency and Health Workforce Australia to the Department of Health as soon as possible, with a view to close these agencies.

Transfer essential functions of the General Practice Education and Training to the Department of Health by 1 January 2015, with a view to close the agency.

Transfer responsibilities of the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman to the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman by 1 July 2015, and transfer functions of the Private Health Insurance Administration Council to the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority and the Department of Health by 1 July 2015.

Merge the National Blood Authority and the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority by 1 July 2015, with a view to establishing a new independent Authority.

Work with States and Territories with the intention to create a new Health Productivity and Performance Commission. Subject to consultation, the new Health and Productivity Commission would be formed by merging the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, the National Health Performance Authority, the National Health Funding Body and the Administrator of the National Health Funding Pool.

The Government and the Department of Health will work with affected agencies to consider the most efficient and effective model for future delivery, and manage staffing to meet these requirements.

Staff affected by the changes will be informed and supported during the transition. Entitlements of staff will be managed in line with agency enterprise agreements and employment contracts.

Health Budget at a Glance (Extracts: "Prevention" and "Agencies")

		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total
Prevention						
Full implementation of National Bowel Cancer Screening Programme	-	3.8	7.6	34.0	50.5	95.9
National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health - <u>cessation</u>	-	-53.5	-53.5	-130.4	-130.5	-367.9
National Tobacco Campaign - a new and lower cost media campaign	-2.9	-	-	-	-	-2.9
Tobacco Plain Packaging Litigation	-	nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp
Sub Total	-2.9	-49.7	-45.9	-96.4	-80.0	-274.9

Agencies							
Smaller Government - Australian National Preventive Health Agency - <u>abolish</u>		1.0	-0.2	-2.0	-2.6	-2.6	-6.4
Sub Total		1.0	-0.2	-2.0	-2.6	-2.6	-6.4