



THE SENATE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

MEDIA RELEASE

4 February 2015

Senate Select Committee on Health – Public Hearing, Thursday 5 February 2015, Parliament House, Canberra

On 25 June 2014 the Senate established the Select Committee on Health. The terms of reference for the Select Committee encompass many aspects of the Australian health care system, for example:

- the impact of additional costs on the sustainability of Medicare;
- the impact of reduced Commonwealth funding for health promotion, prevention and early intervention; and
- Indigenous health and rural health.

The full terms of reference can be found at the committee's website:

www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Health/Health/Terms_of_Reference

The committee is holding a public hearing in Canberra on 5 February 2015 to examine the proposed changes to Medicare, including the \$5 co-payment. Those appearing at the hearing include A/Professor Brian Owler, President of the Australian Medical Association and Dr Frank Jones, President of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

On 2 December 2014, the committee tabled its first interim report. The report examined issues raised in submissions and hearings and included:

- the proposed \$7 patient co-payments, cuts to hospital funding and the abolition of Australian National Preventative Health Agency; and
- the plan to close the 61 Medicare Locals and replace them with 30 Primary Health Networks.

The interim report can be accessed via the committee's website:

www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Health/Health/First_Interim_Report

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