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Health Forum  
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Representing consumers on national health issues

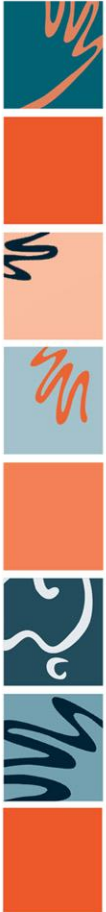
# Current Issues and Key Challenges for Consumer Focused Health Policy

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# Current Environment

- Change of government and imminent first budget
- Threats of significant cuts to health budget and increased costs to consumers
- Possible changes to financing of health services and health insurance

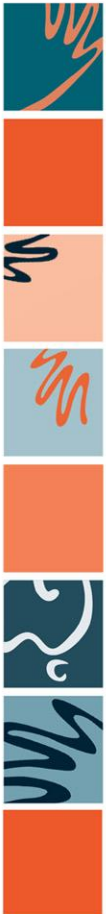




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# Health Expenditure

- Health expenditure is rising – \$140.2 billion in 2011-12
- Increasing out of pocket – \$24 billion a year
- \$7 billion on dental – mostly private
- Over 5 million prescriptions a week
- Mostly government (tax payer funded) 69.7 % of health expenditure.
- 39% of hospital work is primary care.  
Why isn't this being address in the primary care/community setting?





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# Costs for Consumers

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## PERCENTAGE OF AUSTRALIANS IN PAST YEAR WHO...

### because of cost

- did not visit a doctor 21%
- did not get a recommended test or treatment 33%
- did not fill prescription or skipped doses 22%
- did not see a dentist when needed to 43%

**paid > \$1,000 for out-of-pocket costs** 25%

**waited > 4 months for elective surgery**

**(amongst those needing it)** 18%

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Data source: Commonwealth Fund Surveys; ref: Davis et al, The Commonwealth Fund, 2010

# Challenges for Health System

- Quality while maintaining affordability
- Safety and continuous improvement
- Appropriateness of services
- Access to services (right time, right place)
- Distribution of health workforce
- Greater proportion of population with chronic disease and requirements for long term and coordinated care
- Continued fragmented journey for patients transitioning across hospital, primary care, and aged care

# The CHF Agenda

- Achieve better outcomes for the people who pay for and use the health system - health consumers
- Make health care more accessible – cost, etc.
- Make health services more flexible and responsive to health consumers needs
- Drive reform in consumer engagement, work practices and information sharing
- Improve safety and quality
- Make the health system accountable for achieving better health



# CHF's Policy Principles

- Consumer centred care
- Access, equity and affordability
- Safety and quality
- Transparency and accountability
- Consumer control
- Evaluation and measurement



# Policy Position Papers

- 5CPA
- Consumers and medical tests
- Medical Devices
- Informed consent
- Home Medicines Review
- Health Literacy
- Codes of Conduct
- Accreditation Standards
- eHealth and Personally Controlled Electronic Health Records (PCEHR)





# Policy Position Papers cont

- Price disclosure
- Patents in healthcare
- Out of pocket costs
- Medicines Regulation
- Medicare
- Medicare Benefits Schedule
- Social determinants of health
- Food and nutrition
- Medicine management



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# How can we influence health policy together?

- Embedding Consumer focussed research in decision-making frameworks-supporting RPRD
- Leveraging rep insights and networks for CHF Policy Work





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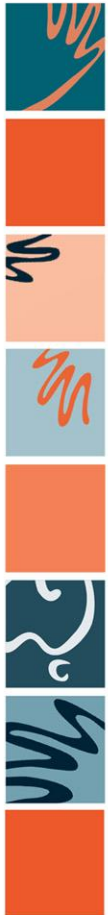
# WHAT IS MISSING?





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# WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT?





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# Thank you

## Q&A

