

The Australian Health System: an overview for young people

Resources and useful links

THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SYSTEM: AN OVERVIEW FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: USEFUL LINKS

GENERAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Australia's Health: a biennial report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Contains a wealth of data about health status of the population, health spending and health service utilisation.

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/australias-health>

A brief overview of how the health system works from a consumer perspective

<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/australias-healthcare-system>

A quick guide to Australia's health system from a policy perspective (the funding details are a bit out of date but the general information is accurate)

https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp1819/Quick_Guides/HealthAust

GOVERNMENT HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Commonwealth Department of Health website

www.health.gov.au

Commonwealth Department of Health Organisational chart (useful for finding specific areas and people to contact)

<https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/department-of-health-and-aged-care-organisational-chart.pdf>

Links to State and Territory Departments of Health

<https://www.health.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/local-state-and-territory-health-departments>

PARLIAMENTARIANS

FEDERAL PARLIAMENT

List and contacts for Senators

https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members

Contact details for House of Representatives

https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/House_of_Representatives

Links to State and Territory parliaments

https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/advocacy/advocacy_article.jsp?articleId=2386

STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION AGENCY

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is the national organisation responsible for implementing the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) across Australia. AHPRA works with 15 National Health Practitioner Boards in implementing the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. It also deals with some sorts of complaints about health care providers.

<https://www.ahpra.gov.au>

COMMONWEALTH OMBUDSMAN

The role of the Commonwealth Ombudsman is to help resolve complaints about Australian Government agencies and some private sector services, including private health insurers or health care providers.

<https://www.ombudsman.gov.au>

THE AUSTRALIAN PRUDENTIAL REGULATION AUTHORITY

The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) is an independent statutory authority that supervises institutions across banking, insurance and superannuation, and is accountable to the Australian Parliament. APRA oversees private health insurers to protect the interests of depositors, policyholders and fund members.

<https://www.apra.gov.au>

THE AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) was established to lead and coordinate national improvements in the safety and quality of health care. ACSQHC is an independent statutory authority funded jointly by the Australian Government and by state and territory governments.

ACSQHC works in four priority areas:

- Safe delivery of health care
- Partnering with consumers
- Partnering with healthcare professionals
- Quality, value and outcomes

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au>

THINKTANKS AND RESEARCH BODIES

THE GRATTAN INSTITUTE

Grattan Institute is an independent apolitical Australian public policy think tank, established in 2008. Grattan Institute currently focuses on six key policy areas: Budgets and Government, Transport and Cities, Energy and Climate Change, Health and Aged Care, Education, and Economic Policy.

<https://grattan.edu.au>

MENTAL HEALTH THINKTANK

Australia's Mental Health Think Tank is an independent group of world-leading mental health researchers, leaders in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, clinicians, people with lived and living experience, business leaders, carers and policy experts.

<https://mentalhealththinktank.org.au>

LOWITJA INSTITUTE

Lowitja Institute is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled health research institute focussed on improving the health and wellbeing of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through high impact quality research, knowledge exchange, and by supporting a new generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers.

<https://www.lowitja.org.au>

HEALTH MEDIA OUTSIDE THE MAINSTREAM

CROAKEY HEALTH MEDIA

Croakey Health Media is an online social journalism initiative with a public health equity and social justice focus. Croakey's online news site encourages input from diverse contributors, in particular those under-represented in mainstream media (this includes young people!).

<https://www.croakey.org>

THE CONVERSATION

The Conversation is a online source of research-based news and analysis from authors with academic positions in universities or research institutions. It focuses on providing commentary on current affairs from a range of experts in a format accessible to lay readers.

<https://theconversation.com/au>

INSIDE STORY

Inside Story is an online source of commentary on a range of public policy issues, including a focus on health.

<https://insidestory.org.au>

PEARLS AND IRRITATIONS

Pearls and Irritations is a well-respected blog with a wide range of contributors providing progressive, liberal commentary on politics, public policy and world affairs.

<https://johnmenadue.com>

MICHAEL WEST MEDIA

Michael West Media is an independent media publisher which focuses on politics and public policy with a focus on uncovering corruption and the power of corporations over political decision making.

<https://michaelwest.com.au>