



Consultation on Private Health Reform Options

In January 2025, Cancer Council Australia completed a submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care on Private Health Reform Options. This consultation aimed to understand stakeholder and community feedback about a selection of short-term private health reform options.

Cancer Council's submission covered the following areas:

- Ensuring that people affected by cancer are not disadvantaged by any of the proposed options, with any reform maintaining a goal of reducing the out-of-pocket costs associated with cancer for all Australians. To this point, we recommended that out-of-pocket cost evaluations be a key component of all reform evaluation.
- We discouraged a self-regulatory approach to ensure that Australians received better outcomes, without undue industry influence or interference, reinforcing that safeguarding patients from burdensome administrative procedures as a result of healthcare reforms should be a priority of the Government.
- We advocated for Hospital in the Home programs, with cancer as a priority condition. It is safe and effective to deliver cancer treatments such as chemotherapy and immunotherapy in the home for some patient cohorts using a domiciliary workforce.
- Public and private sectors and insurers must work together to deliver and finance a comprehensive range of mental health services for people affected by cancer. The proposed reform to the 10-year moratorium for psychiatrists will need to be regularly reviewed to ensure the long-term success and that it is achieving the envisaged workforce distribution goals.

Information about the progress of the consultation can be found on the Department of Health and Aged Care's consultation's webpage: <https://consultations.health.gov.au/private-hospitals-branch/private-health-reform-options-dec2024/>