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Federal Budget: Inclusive approach to private health insurance reform

The Federal Budget has announced some key committees that will result in positive steps forward for private health insurance reform, says Australian Private Hospitals Association (APHA) CEO Michael Roff.

“We welcome the broad sector approach to private health insurance reform, with the announcement of an expert committee to advise on system changes,” Mr Roff said.

“While we await the Government’s response to the review of private health insurance the new Private Health Sector Committee indicates a range of views and advice will be involved, which we believe will result in a good outcome for consumers. Including industry specialists and consumer expertise will mean that reforms can be developed through consensus, delivering better outcomes without unintended consequences.

“We are aware there is a great deal of confusion about private health insurance and what care different policies entitle Australians to access. We know Australians want to see better value from their health insurance and reforming the system should ensure this occurs.

“It is important Australians have access to the best possible care through the private system if they choose it. We have proposed a range of measures to improve the value of health insurance and we look forward to working with the Government to put these in place.

“We are hopeful this work will not be delayed by the impending Federal Election so momentum on this issue is not lost.”

Mr Roff was also pleased to see a prostheses list reform process that would build on the good work of the Prostheses Working Group chaired by Professor Lloyd Sansom.

“The Government is taking the right approach. Rather than ripping money out of the system and causing chaos it will allow managed reform to a sustainable system. We look forward to continuing this work so Australians have access to the best technology and life-saving devices,” he said.

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