



THE SENATE

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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### 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.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Health/Health/Terms\\_of\\_Reference](http://www.aph.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.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Health/Health/First\\_Interim\\_Report](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Health/Health/First_Interim_Report)

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