

Schedule E

New Subacute Beds Guarantee Funding

NATIONAL HEALTH REFORM AGREEMENT - NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON IMPROVING PUBLIC HOSPITALS SERVICES

DESCRIPTION

- E1 The Commonwealth Government will provide up to \$1.623 billion in capital and recurrent funding from 2010-11 to 2013-14 to States and Territories to deliver and operate over 1,300 new subacute care beds nationally, in hospital and community settings, by the end of this period.
- E2 The Commonwealth Government and the States and Territories will commit to the bed targets contained in this Schedule being new, additional subacute care beds in hospitals and bed-equivalents in the community (throughout this Schedule the term 'beds' refers to both beds and bed-equivalent community based services).
- E3 These reforms will improve patient health outcomes, functional capacity and quality of life by increasing access to subacute care services including rehabilitation, palliative care, mental health and geriatric services in both hospitals and the community.
- E4 The reforms will also increase capacity in the public hospital system by freeing up acute care beds for those who need them and reducing pressure on emergency departments.
- E5 In delivering new subacute care beds, States and Territories will take local needs and the needs of disadvantaged groups in the community into account and aim to improve the mix of services and distribution of subacute care across the region.
- E6 States and Territories agree to plan the delivery of new beds to ensure they are distributed according to local need, maintain the availability of acute care beds and take into account any nationally identified subacute care benchmarks.
- E7 States and Territories agree to actively engage sectors involved in the delivery of subacute services in the development of Implementation Plans and throughout the duration of the Schedule and facilitate the update of subacute care evidence-based guidelines and pathways to promote service quality.
- E8 The Commonwealth Government and the States and Territories will agree and apply, by 31 December 2010, a nationally consistent method for measuring subacute care growth to determine the number of new, additional subacute care beds throughout the agreement period.

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- E9 The Commonwealth Government and the States and Territories will take into consideration the work completed and under way as part of Schedule C of the *National Partnership Agreement on Hospital and Health Workforce Reform* in implementing this National Partnership.
- E10 Progress against delivery of new subacute care beds and other agreed performance information will be collected and publicly reported.
- E11 States and Territories agree to work in close alliance with Local Hospital Networks to achieve the objectives and outputs of Schedule E.
- E12 States and Territories can flexibly move funding allocated to this Schedule to other Schedules within this Agreement but only in strict accordance with the requirements set out in Clause 34.

Project Eligibility Criteria

- E13 To assist States and Territories to achieve the agreed targets for new, additional subacute care beds, funding may be used for the following purposes:
 - a. construction of new subacute care beds (through new construction or refurbishment) in hospitals and the community, including purchase of subacute care equipment;
 - b. employment of new hospital or community based staff, or expansion of their roles, to deliver additional subacute care services; and
 - c. coordination across relevant Australian Government and State and Territory programs and activities to ensure seamless and high quality patient care, including: development and application of agreed nationally consistent performance measures; uptake and dissemination of relevant evidence-based guidelines; and IT systems to improve the management of patient flows across the health care system.

Targets and Performance Measurement

- E14 The States and Territories commit to deliver and operate the following number of new, additional subacute beds over the years 2010-11 to 2013-14:

Table E1: Estimated Distribution of New Subacute Beds across States and Territories

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2010-11	107	82	66	34	24	8	5	3	329
2011-12	215	163	133	67	49	15	11	7	660
2012-13	321	245	199	101	73	23	16	10	988
2013-14	428	326	265	135	97	30	21	14	1,316

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- E15 The States and Territories will jointly develop and agree a nationally consistent method for measuring subacute care growth, based on 2009-10 data, to be