

Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health



Integrated
Primary Care -
the News from
Australia

Professor David Perkins
Scottish School of Primary Care Conference,
Edinburgh
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Design out of line with modern needs

Considerable fragmentation

- Public-private
- Commonwealth-state
- Metropolitan – rural
- Health – social care
- Provider centred – patient centred

Misalignment of incentives

- Fee for service
- Activity based funding

Underdeveloped primary care

Fiscal imbalance



Current solutions local integration initiatives

Private practice

- Maximise FFS income
- Local integration initiatives

State

- Demonstration projects, trials
- Purchasing from NGOs
- Priority programs – Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (SPMI)
- Multi-purpose services (rural)
- E-health investments



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Current solutions (cont.)

Federal

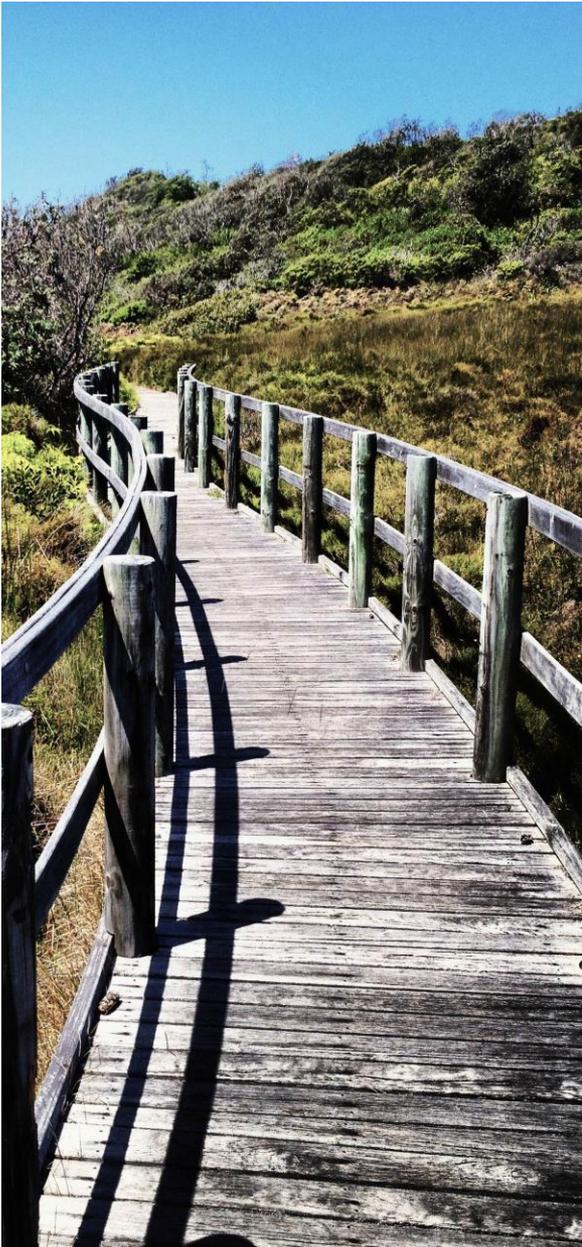
- Freeze on Medical Benefits Scheme fees - unsustainable
- Renegotiate Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme with manufacturers
- National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Primary Health Networks (more later)
- Workforce/Access investments – Regional Training Hubs, Rural Clinical Schools, University Departments of Rural Health
- E-health infrastructure investments – e.g. mental health portals, extension of telehealth rebates
- National suicide prevention trials
- Coterminous Local Hospital Networks and PHNs
- Particular investments such as “Headspace” youth mental health services



Primary Health Networks

Previously Medicare Locals and Divisions of General Practice

31 PHNs replaced 61 MLS



Primary Health Networks

PHNs have been established with the key objectives of increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.





PHN activities

Needs analyses

Supporting general practices – not competing/duplicating

Commissioning services where there are gaps

Collecting primary care data

Collaborating with Local Hospital Networks

Special funds to some PHNs for mental health, suicide prevention

Current solution based around REGIONALISM



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