



IHACPA

AHES
Australian Health Economics Society

THE FUTURE OF MEDICARE

RESEARCH-INFORMED POLICY FOR BETTER ACCESS & HEALTH

WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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9.30AM—4PM THE FUTURE OF MEDICARE: RESEARCH-INFORMED
POLICY FOR BETTER ACCESS AND HEALTH

ARRIVAL | 9.00 - 9.30AM

WELCOME

9.30 - 9.50AM

Welcome to Country and opening remarks

- Aunty Violet Sheridan
- Anthony Scott

OPENING PANEL

9.50 - 10.30AM

Reflections on Medicare

- The Hon. Mark Butler MP (video message)
- Elizabeth Deveny
- Pradeep Philip
- Jane Hall
- Richard Holden (moderator)

MORNING TEA | 10.30 - 11.00AM

SESSION 1

11.00 - 11.50AM

Data, data everywhere.... Making the best use of the revolution in access to administrative data to modernise Medicare

Continuing improvements in data infrastructure, data linkage, and access to administrative data by researchers can transform the research landscape and the production of policy-relevant evidence to support Medicare reform.

- Teresa Dickinson | *The power of data linkage and providing access to researchers*
- Phillip Gould | *How data is transforming health policy*
- Denzil Fiebig | *We have the data...what next?*
- Eleanor Williams (moderator)

SESSION 2

11.50AM - 12.50PM

Medicare and equity of access

A key objective of Medicare, and any universal health insurance scheme, is to improve access through reducing the size and unpredictability of out of pocket costs. This was achieved for public hospital care, with continuing progress for pharmaceuticals, whilst there has been less progress for GP and private specialists. What can research tell us about these issues?

- Kees van Gool | *Does changing the MBS improve access? Evidence from MBS reforms*
- Li Huang | *Inequalities in access to care for children*
- Dianne Currier | *Medicare and access to mental health services*
- Karinna Saxby | *Improving access for First Nations Peoples*
- Penny Shakespeare (moderator)

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LUNCH | 12.50 - 1.30PM

SESSION 3

1.30 - 2.30PM

Medicare and the health care system

Medicare was designed to improve access but has increasingly been used to change the way health care is delivered. Medicare is also one part of a broader system of health and social care delivery. How can research inform better system design and new integrated models of care?

- **Rosemary Huxtable** | *Using National Health Reform Agreements to strengthen Medicare*
- **Nathan Kettlewell** | *Evidence on the role of private health insurance*
- **Michael Wright** | *Will strengthening primary care strengthen the whole system? What evidence do we need?*
- **Anthony Scott** | *Creating a more flexible health workforce to improve access and health*
- **Catherine de Fontenay** (moderator)

BREAK | 2.30 - 2.45PM

SESSION 4

2.45 - 3.45PM

How can we build research capacity to modernise Medicare?

How can we make a step change in producing high-quality and policy-relevant research that supports universal health insurance in Australia? Will the announcement of a new national health and medical research strategy help build research capacity to modernise Medicare?

- **The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP**
- **Joshua Byrnes**
- **Emily Lancsar**
- **Sally Redman**
- **Dr Liz Develin** (moderator)

CLOSE | 3.45PM

Anthony Scott

SPEAKERS



Professor Josh Byrnes

President | Australian Health Economics Society

Professor Josh Byrnes has worked as an academic and consulting health economist since 2011 after he was awarded his PhD in Health Economics from The University of New South Wales. Joshua's research expertise centres on the design and analysis of studies for the purpose of measuring and demonstrating value in health. He is the current President of the Australian Health Economics Society and past Australian President of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. He has significantly impacted and influenced policy, practice and funding decisions in the Australian health system. This has included leading the economic assessment of plain packaging tobacco legislation, pregnancy warning labels on alcohol, and opt-out arrangements for the MyHealth Record, .



Associate Professor Dianne Currier

Melbourne School of Population and Global Health
University of Melbourne

Dianne Currier is an Associate Professor and Principal Research Fellow in the Centre for Mental Health and Community Wellbeing in the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne. She has twenty years of experience in suicide prevention and mental health research examining a broad range of factors including epidemiological, neurobiological, psychosocial and behavioural, as well as social determinants. In recent years the focus of her work has been evaluating national programs and projects to inform government policymaking and system reform. This includes managing the evaluation of the Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and General Practitioners through the Medicare Benefits Schedule initiative in 2022 and leading the national evaluation of the National Suicide Prevention Trial from 2018-2021.



Dr Catherine de Fontenay

Commissioner | Productivity Commission

Catherine has served as a Commissioner at the Productivity Commission since 2019. She has led several research projects and inquiries in Health and in Aged Care. Prior to joining the Commission, she was an Associate Professor of Economics at Melbourne Business School.



Dr Liz Develin

Deputy Secretary | Department of Health and Aged Care

Dr Liz Develin has executive leadership experience across all levels of Government. Prior to joining the Department in January 2024, Liz has been a CEO of both the Sydney Olympic Park Authority and the Australian Energy Regulator. Her public service career began in the NSW Government and she has enjoyed executive level roles across NSW Health, Premier & Cabinet, and the Planning portfolio. Her varied leadership roles have spanned areas such as health promotion, service planning, health infrastructure, national reform and intergovernmental relations, governance, urban planning, housing, energy and water. Liz has qualifications in human movement, public health, and a Doctorate of Business Administration that considered policy implementation in the NSW health system.

SPEAKERS



Dr Elizabeth Deveny

CEO | Consumer Health Forum of Australia

Dr. Elizabeth Deveny, a champion of consumer-driven health policy reform, has dedicated her career to enhancing health outcomes through strategic leadership and advocacy. As the CEO of the Consumers Health Forum of Australia, she leads efforts to ensure that health consumer voices are integral to policy making. Dr. Deveny holds a PhD in Medicine, with her academic pursuits grounded in exploring the dynamics between clinical practices and health technologies. Her extensive experience in health service reform is marked by her adeptness in navigating complex reforms and her proactive approach to incorporating consumer insights into health system improvements. Dr. Deveny's commitment to health equity is evident in her leadership in both national and international forums, where she advocates for policies that are inclusive and equitable.



Ms Teresa Dickinson, PSM

Deputy Australian Statistician | Australian Bureau of Statistics

Teresa Dickinson is the Deputy Australian Statistician leading the Data and Statistical Practices Group. The Data and Statistical Practices Group is responsible for sourcing the data the ABS uses in its work and disseminating the official statistics, data and insights it produces to inform Australia's important decisions. The Group provides statistical infrastructure to support work of the ABS and leads its work to expand and improve data sharing, data integration and microdata access across government. It also provides methodological and data science leadership to the ABS. Teresa joined the ABS in April 2018 after four years as a Deputy Government Statistician and Deputy Chief Executive at Statistics New Zealand. During a career spanning more than 30 years, Teresa has worked in a wide range of statistical and data roles in the public sector including Commonwealth Government (AIHW and ABS previously), Victorian State Government and scientific research (CSIRO). She has over 20 years of experience at senior executive levels. Teresa holds Master of Statistics and Master of Business Administration degrees. She is a University Medallist and Accredited Statistician with the Statistical Society of Australia. Teresa was awarded a Public Service Medal in 2022 for the development of data and statistics, and for the delivery of the 2021 Census of Population and Housing.



Professor Denzil Fiebig FASSA

Professor | UNSW

Denzil G Fiebig has been a Professor in the School of Economics, UNSW Business School since 2001 and previously held a chair in econometrics at the University of Sydney. In 2003 Denzil was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. He was a member of the Australian Research Council College of Experts 2014-17, President of AHES 2005-10, on the Executive Board of iHEA 2014-17, chaired the iHEA Scientific Committee 2016-19 and is on the Scientific Committee of the Asian Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics. He currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation at UTS and the Advisory Committee of the Centre for Health Economics at Monash University and on the editorial boards of The Economic Record and Social Science and Medicine. Denzil has won numerous teaching awards including a Vice Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2016. Denzil's main research area is econometrics with an emphasis on applications in health economics. Associated publications have appeared in journals such as Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Business and Economic Statistics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Marketing Science, Journal Health Economics, Health Economics and Social Science and Medicine.

SPEAKERS



Dr Phillip Gould

First Assistant Secretary | Department of Health and Aged Care

Dr Phillip Gould is the First Assistant Secretary, Health Economics and Research Division and Chief Data Officer in the Department of Health. Phillip is passionate about strengthening the Department's evidence based approach to decision making, through funding new health research, improving the use of health data across the Commonwealth and State and Territories and economic modelling. Phillip is responsible for the department's data governance and specialised modelling functions, including costings for the Commonwealth's health and aged care programs. Additionally, Phillip has oversight of the administration of the Medical Research Future Fund. Phillip was formerly the Assistant Secretary, Office of the National Data Commissioner at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet where he worked on whole-of-government reforms to the public sector data system to deliver improved service, policies and research outcomes for Australians. He led the work to develop a new data sharing legislation to promote a culture of safely using data to its maximum potential. Phillip also brings significant experience as the methodology and data integration lead at the Australian Bureau of Statistics. His previous experience is in the field of banking and finance, and he holds a PhD in Time Series Econometrics.



Distinguished Professor Jane Hall AO

Professor | University of Technology Sydney

Jane is well known for both research contribution and policy analysis. Her current work is focused on health reform particularly on funding issues. Over her career, she has worked across many areas of health economics, including health technology assessment, measurement of quality of life, end of life care, and health workforce. She led the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute funded Centre for Research Excellence in the Finance and Economics of Primary Care (2012-16); and is now Chief Investigator on an NHMRC funded Centre for Research Excellence on value based care. She is currently a member of the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority. She has been an active member of numerous committees and working parties. She received the National Health and Medical Research Council Outstanding Contribution Award in 2017. She was named as one of Australian Financial Review/Westpac 100 Women of Influence in 2016.



Dr Li Huang

Senior Research Fellow | The University of Melbourne

Dr. Li Huang specializes in the economics of well-being and income-related inequalities, as well as economic evaluations alongside clinical and community trials. She is experienced with administrative healthcare data and data linkages. Li has worked with clinicians from over 20 child health specialties, and is a co-investigator on grants worth over AU\$21 million. Li has published in leading international journals including Social Science and Medicine, Value in Health, The New England Journal of Medicine, and Lancet Infectious Diseases. One of her methodological studies has estimated the monetary value of health using the subjective well-being valuation method.

SPEAKERS



Ms Rosemary Huxtable, AO PSM

Managing Director | Focal Point Consulting

Rosemary Huxtable was Secretary of the Department of Finance from October 2016 to her retirement in August 2022, working closely with a wide range of government entities during her almost ten years in the Department of Finance, particularly in the areas of social policy, national security and infrastructure. Rosemary has extensive experience in health, aged care and social policy. She was Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Aged Care from March 2009 to June 2013 with responsibility for aged care, mental health and e-health and, prior to that worked extensively on health funding reforms across hospitals, pharmaceuticals and Medicare, including the hospital funding agreements of the Rudd and Gillard governments. Rosemary is currently providing strategic advice and policy development services, including in the areas of health policy, defence and national security. She undertook the Mid-Term Review of the Addendum to the National Health Reform Agreement on behalf of all Health Ministers and was a member of the Aged Care Financing Taskforce. Rosemary received an Order of Australia in 2023 for distinguished service to public administration through leadership roles in the areas of health and finance, and a Public Service Medal in 2005 for her contribution to Medicare reform.



Dr Nathan Kettlewell

Senior Lecturer | University of Technology Sydney

Dr Nathan Kettlewell is a Senior Lecturer in the Economics Department at UTS. His research aims to improve people's economic and social welfare, either by informing better policy decisions, or helping people to make better informed choices. He is an applied microeconomist who has written many papers in the areas of private health insurance, economic preferences, and mental wellbeing. His research on private health insurance explores topics related to consumer wellbeing and public finance, such as the role of government incentives on demand for private insurance, how insurance affects demand for healthcare, and the rationality of consumer behaviour. His research on economic preferences aims to understand why we make the decisions we do by uncovering the causes of individual variation in decision making traits, like risk aversion and trust. In 2022, Nathan was awarded the Rising Star Award by the Australian Health Economics Society, recognising him as "a person whose work is beginning to make a significant impact nationally and internationally, reflecting either scientific excellence or policy impact (or both)." He has also been awarded the UTS Business School Research Awards for Early Career Academics (2022), Research with Relevance (2024) and Engaged People (2024).



Professor Emily Lancsar

Chief Health Economist, Department of Health and Aged Care

Professor Emily Lancsar is the Chief Health Economist, Department of Health and Aged Care, a role she commenced in April this year. Most recently prior to that Emily was Head of the Department of Health Economics Wellbeing and Society at the ANU and from 2020-2022, she served as Associate Dean (Policy and Practice) in the College of Health and Medicine at the ANU. She is an economist with particular interests in valuing life and health, understanding and modelling choice, preferences and behaviour of key decision makers in the health sector, priority setting, economic evaluation and policy analysis. Emily holds a number of current and past ARC, MRFF, NHMRC, MRC, ESRC, NIHR and EU funded grants and fellowships. She has been a member of government advisory committees including the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) and the Economic Sub-Committee of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee from 2019-2023 and a member of the Evaluation Sub-Committee of MSAC from 2011-2021. She is an Associate Editor of Health Economics and a past Vice President of the Australian Health Economics Society.

SPEAKERS



The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP

Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities, Treasury and Employment, Federal Member for Fenner

Andrew Leigh is the Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities, Treasury and Employment, and Federal Member for Fenner in the ACT. Prior to being elected in 2010, Andrew was a professor of economics at the Australian National University. He holds a PhD in Public Policy from Harvard, having graduated from the University of Sydney with first class honours in Arts and Law. Andrew is a past recipient of the Economic Society of Australia's Young Economist Award and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences.



Dr Pradeep Philip

Partner & Head | Deloitte Access Economics

Dr Pradeep Philip is the Head of Deloitte Access Economics, Australia, after a long and successful career in public policy. With a deep expertise in economics, and proven leadership experience, Pradeep has operated as a senior government bureaucrat, working at the highest levels of public policy across three jurisdictions in Australia, and served as Director of Policy to an Australian Prime Minister. Pradeep is also a Board member of the Committee for the Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) and is President of CEDA for Victoria and Tasmania. Pradeep also serves on the Advisory Board of the Melbourne School of Government at the University of Melbourne. Pradeep has served as the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (Victoria), and recently led an Independent Review of the Medicare Payment System in 2022, for the Commonwealth Government.



Dr Sally Redman AO

Formerly CEO | Sax Institute

Dr Redman has a long term and passionate commitment to the use of evidence in policies and service delivery. She has worked closely with government at all levels and with service providers, clinicians and consumers to deliver advice that is based on the best available evidence and practical to implement. She has published widely in public health, health services and increasing the use of evidence from research. Redman was the inaugural CEO of the National Breast Cancer Centre, responsible for driving national adoption of best practice in the prevention, diagnosis and management of breast cancer (1995-2002) and the inaugural CEO of the Sax Institute established to increase the use of research in policy (2002 -2022). She retired from this role in December 2022. Redman was made an Officer of the Order of Australia, 2013, for distinguished service to public health through leadership in the care of women with breast cancer, contributions to research and higher education and the promotion of relationships between researchers, policy makers and practitioners. In 2001, she was awarded the Centenary Medal, for service to the health and welfare of Australian women diagnosed with breast cancer; she received the President's Award from the National Heart Foundation in 2017.

SPEAKERS



Dr Karinna Saxby

Research Fellow | University of Melbourne

As a health economist with expertise in large administrative data, Karinna is passionate about generating robust evidence to inform health policy in Australia. Her recent research has looked at financial incentives in primary care (e.g., Rural Bulk Billing Incentive, Closing the Gap), how societal level conditions shape healthcare use among LGBTQ+ Australians (e.g., Marriage Equality), and geographic variation in healthcare access, including out-of-pocket costs. Karinna's research has been published in the leading health economics and public health journals including the Lancet, Health Economics, and the American Journal of Public Health. Her work has featured in the Sydney Morning Herald, the Herald Sun, and on national radio stations (Triple M, RRR, JoyFM).



Professor Anthony Scott FASSA

Professor | Centre for Health Economics, Monash Business School

Anthony's goal is to influence health policy using high-quality research. He's a professor in the Centre for Health Economics, Monash Business School. Previously, he led health economics research at the Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic and Social Research, at the University of Melbourne. He is an elected Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, immediate Past President of the Australian Health Economics Society, and was a Board Director of the International Health Economics Association. Anthony has been an ARC Future Fellow and NHMRC Principal Research Fellow.



Ms Penny Shakespeare

Deputy Secretary, Health Resourcing | Department of Health and Aged Care

Penny Shakespeare is Deputy Secretary of the Health Resourcing Group. This includes the Technology Assessment and Access Division, Medical Benefits and Digital Health Division, Health Workforce Division, Benefits Integrity Division. Since joining Health in 2006, Penny has held a number of senior leadership positions, including First Assistant Secretary of the Technology Assessment and Access Division and Health Workforce Division. Prior to joining Health, Penny was an industrial relations lawyer in the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and worked in regulatory policy roles, including as head of the ACT Office of Industrial Relations. Penny has a Bachelor of Laws, a Masters degree in International Law and is admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor.

SPEAKERS



Dr Kees van Gool

Professor | University of Sydney

Kees van Gool is professor of health policy and systems at the Menzies Centre for Health Policy and Economics, University of Sydney. He is a health economist with extensive experience in international, national and regional health policy research. He leads the Centre of Research Excellence on Value-Based Payments in Cancer Care which is examining how payment reform can contribute to better health outcomes, greater efficiency and improved access to care. Kees is also the executive director of the Pricing and Analytics Branch at the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA). Kees has quantitative skills in micro-economic modelling and has established a track record in using linked data. Kees has previously worked at the University Of Technology Sydney, Department of Health, NSW Health and the OECD where he led a project on international health system performance and policy analysis on cardiovascular disease care and outcomes.



Ms Eleanor Williams

Managing Director | Australian Centre for Evaluation

Eleanor Williams is a public policy, research and evaluation professional with 20 years' experience working with the public sector. Eleanor is the Managing Director of the Australian Centre for Evaluation in the Commonwealth Department of Treasury and established the Australian Public Sector Evaluation Network in 2019. Prior to her current role, Eleanor established the Centre for Evaluation and Research Evidence at the Victorian Department of Health. She holds Masters degrees in Evaluation and Public Policy, and is currently undertaking PhD research on evidence use in fast-paced policy contexts with supervisors at the University of Queensland and University College London.



Dr Michael Wright MBBS MSC PhD FRACGP

Chief Medical Officer | Avant

Dr Michael Wright is a medical graduate, with post-graduate qualifications in public health and health economics. With over 20 years clinical experience, Michael has worked as a GP in Australia and England, in urban and rural settings, been a practice owner and GP contractor. Michael is the Chief Medical Officer of Avant Mutual, Australia's largest medical indemnity provider, Board Chair of Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network, and Deputy Chair for RACGP NSW/ACT Faculty Council. Michael is a strong advocate for improving safety and quality in health care, and his research interests include understanding the impact of continuity of care on the primary care performance, improving collaboration between health care providers, and use of financial incentives to improve quality and sustainability of general practice. Michael completed his PhD in health economics at the Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE) at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS).



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