

Queensland



**MEDICARE PRINCIPLES
AND COMMITMENTS
ADOPTION BILL 1994**

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MEDICARE PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS ADOPTION BILL 1994

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MEDICARE PRINCIPLES

COMMITMENTS

1994

A BILL

FOR

**An Act to adopt the Medicare Principles and Commitments specified
in section 26(2) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* (Cwlth) and for
another purpose**

*Medicare Principles and Commitments
Adoption*

The Parliament of Queensland enacts—	1
 Short title	 2
<i>Clause1.</i> This Act may be cited as the <i>Medicare Principles and Commitments Adoption Act 1994</i> .	3 4
 Interpretation	 5
<i>Clause2.</i> Words used in this Act that are defined in the <i>Health Insurance Act 1973</i> (Cwlth) have the same meanings in this Act.	6 7
 Medicare Principles and Commitments	 8
<i>Clause3.(1)</i> The Medicare Principles and Commitments specified in section 26(2) of the <i>Health Insurance Act 1973</i> (Cwlth) are established as guidelines that will govern the delivery of public hospital services to eligible persons in the State.	9 10 11 12
(2) A copy of the Medicare Principles and Commitments is contained in the Schedule.	13 14
 Act does not create legal rights	 15
<i>Clause4.</i> This Act does not create legal rights.	16

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The Commonwealth and the States are committed to the following Principles in the provision of public hospital services—	4 5
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The Principles focus on the provision of public hospital services to eligible persons, but operate in an environment where eligible persons have the right to choose private health care in public and private hospitals supported by private health insurance.	7 8 9
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1. Hospital services include in-patient, out-patient, emergency services (including primary care where appropriate) and day patient services consistent with currently acceptable medical and health service standards.	15 16 17
2. At the time of admission to a hospital, or as soon as practicable after that, an eligible person will be required to elect or confirm whether he or she wishes to be treated as a public or private patient.	18 19 20
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Explanatory notes

1. None of the following factors are to be a determinant of an eligible person's priority for receiving hospital services—
 - whether or not an eligible person has health insurance;
 - an eligible person's financial status or place of residence;
 - whether or not an eligible person intends to elect, or elects, to be treated as a public or private patient.
2. This principle applies equally to waiting times for elective surgery.

Equity in service provision

Principle 3

To the maximum practicable extent, a State will ensure the provision of public hospital services equitably to all eligible persons, regardless of their geographical location

Explanatory notes

1. This principle does not require a local hospital to be equipped to provide eligible persons with every hospital service they may need.
2. In rural and remote areas, a State should ensure provision of reasonable public access to a basic range of hospital services which are in accord with clinical practices.

COMMITMENTS

In order to achieve Principles 1 to 3, the Commonwealth and States make the following Commitments regarding public hospital services for eligible persons—

*Medicare Principles and Commitments
Adoption*

Information about service provision

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Commitment 1

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The Commonwealth and a State must make available information on the public hospital services eligible persons can expect to receive as public patients

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Explanatory notes

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1. The joint Commonwealth/State development of a Public Patients' Hospital Charter for each State will be a vehicle for the public dissemination of this information.

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2. The Charter will set out the public hospital services available to public patients.

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Efficiency and quality in service provision

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Commitment 2

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The Commonwealth and the States are committed to making improvements in the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of hospital service delivery

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Explanatory note

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This includes a commitment to quality improvement, outcome measurement, management efficiency and effort to integrate the delivery of hospital and other health and community services.

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