

The role played by health-care facilities and services in ensuring better health for all Australians

What role do health care facilities and services play in achieving better health for all Australians?

Students learn about:

- health care in Australia
 - range and types of health facilities and services
 - responsibility for health facilities and services
 - equity of access to health facilities and services
 - health care expenditure versus expenditure on early intervention and prevention
 - impact of emerging new treatments and technologies on health care, eg cost and access, benefits of early detection
 - health insurance: Medicare and private

Students learn to:

- evaluate health care in Australia by investigating issues of access and adequacy in relation to social justice principles. Questions to explore include:
 - how equitable is the access and support for all sections of the community?
 - how much responsibility should the community assume for individual health problems?
- describe the advantages and disadvantages of Medicare and private health insurance, eg costs, choice, ancillary benefits

Health care in Australia

- Health care in Australia is amongst the best in the world, which is reflected in the **increasing rates of life expectancy, decreasing rates of infant mortality** and overall positive self-ratings of Australian's health.
- Health care facilities across the country provide a wide variety of services for the **prevention, treatment and management** of injuries and illness.
- Over the past 50 years changing views on health have led to a **shift** in the nature of the health industry, with a move from largely **curative health** care services to health care services that reflect a more **holistic** view of health.

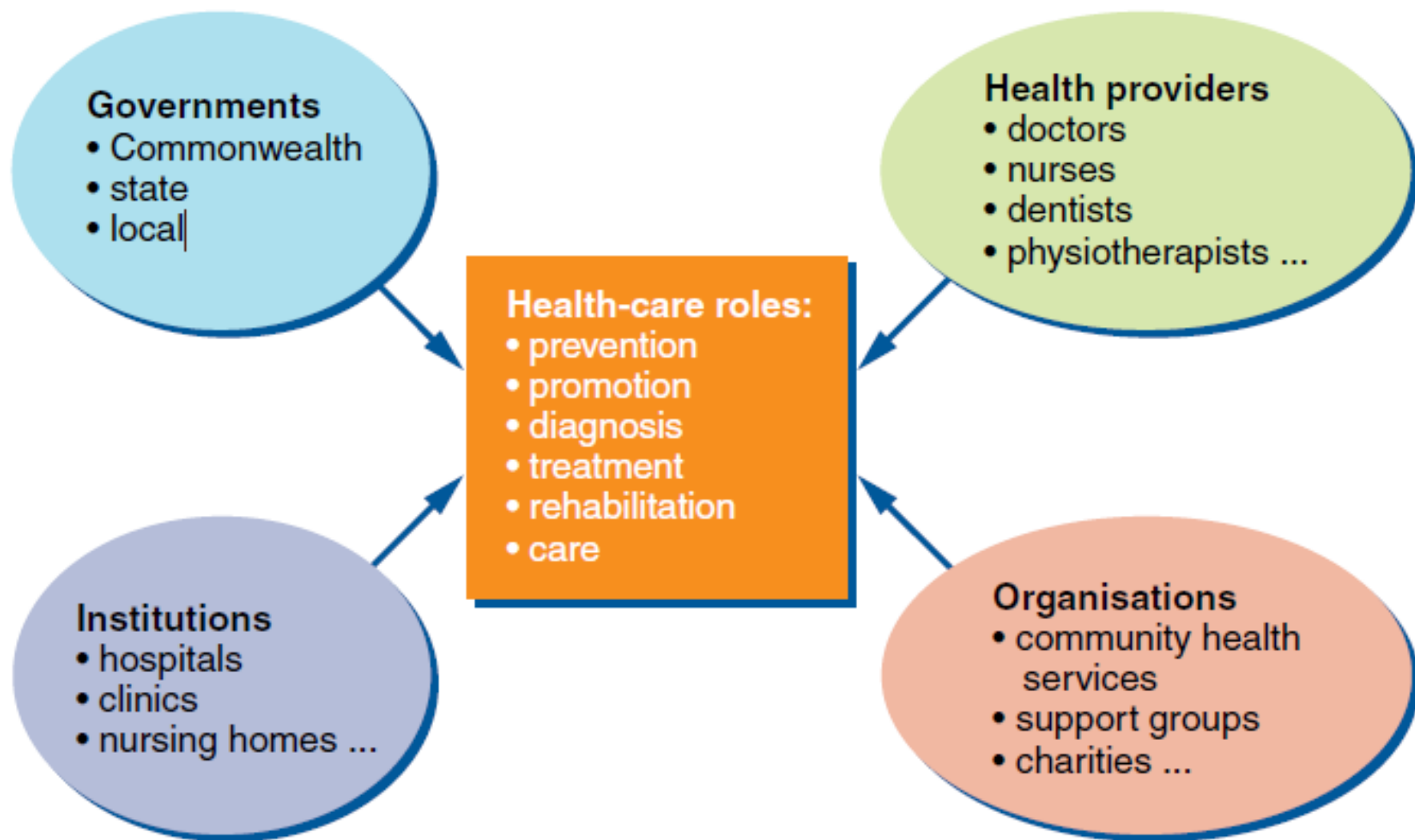


Figure 3.7: Features and roles of the health-care system

Range and types of health facilities and services

- The healthcare system in Australia encompasses a wide range of healthcare services:
- institutionalised services such as hospitals and nursing homes
- non-institutionalised services such as public health programs and the vast range of health professionals working within the community eg doctors, nurses, physios, dentists.

Institutional care	Non-institutional care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — public — private — psychiatric • Nursing homes • Other services such as ambulance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical services such as those provided by medical practitioners and specialists • Health-related services; for example dental, optical, pharmaceutical, physiotherapy • Community and public health services such as supplying health equipment, aids and appliances • Research organisations such as the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)



Figure 3.3: Institutional and non-institutional care in Australia

- Look at p84-87 and answer the following:

Outline the range and types of health facilities and services in Australia.

- (hint look at the pink headings!)

Responsibility for health facilities and services

- Responsibility needs to be **shared** across all levels of government (federal, state, local), the private sector and individuals.
- Publically accessible healthcare services in Australia are provided by the Commonwealth, state and Territory governments.
- Private healthcare services are provided by a range of private and community groups.

Responsibility for health facilities and services (cont)

- Of the total health funding of \$121.4 billion in 2009–10, the Australian Government contributed 44% and state, territory and local governments 26%.
- The non-government sector funded the remaining 30%.
- This means that more than **two-thirds of health-care** spending was funded by governments.

Responsibility for health facilities and services (cont)

- The Commonwealth government focuses on generating and **allocating funding** to the healthcare system, the **development** of national healthcare **policy, and Medicare**.
- Funding is provided to the state and territory governments by the Commonwealth government which also influences their policy development and implementation in those states.

Responsibility for health facilities and services (cont)

- State and territory governments are responsible for delivering healthcare services to the community, such as hospitals
- State governments may also oversee some of the health programs which are implemented by local governments such as immunisation programs.
- Local area governments' main responsibility is to monitor areas such as environmental factors such as sanitation and hygiene, standards and compliance in the hospitality industry and meals on wheels.

Responsibility for health facilities and services (cont)

- Private sector is responsible for private hospitals, private organisations such as the cancer council, aged care facilities for fee paying patients, other private health services such as physio and dentists.
- Individual is responsible to use the services they have access to as well as take preventative measures such as exercise or eat well to stay healthy.

Equity of access to health facilities and services

- Cystic fibrosis boy facing a \$260,000 annual bill for medicine after PBS ruling – article:
- <http://m.smh.com.au/nsw/cystic-fibrosis-boy-facing-a-260000-bill-for-medicine-after-pbs-ruling-20160429-gohzch.html>

Equity of access to health facilities and services

- Access to health care is a social justice issue that continues to cause problems for our health system.
- Access refers to the availability of health facilities and services. Unfortunately not everyone has equal access across varying population groups, so an inequity of access exists among people of low socioeconomic status, low levels of education, and geographical location.
- The government introduced Medicare and the Pharmaceutical benefits scheme (PBS) to increase access for ALL.

Equity of access to health facilities and services

- Medicare is Australia's national health care system and provides access to health services by providing subsidised treatments for some medical practitioners including GP's and free treatment from public hospitals.
- The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) is another national scheme that subsidises certain prescriptions medications, making it more affordable for all...is it really more affordable for all?

Your money or your life...Cancer patient pays
\$5,000 every two weeks for treatment costing
others just \$6.20

- <http://www.abc.net.au/austory/content/2015/s4418683.htm>

