

Implementation Plan for the Extension of the COAG Long Stay Older Patients Initiative

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON HEALTH SERVICES

PRELIMINARIES

1. This Implementation Plan is created subject to the provisions of the National Partnership Agreement on Health Services and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The objective in the National Partnership is to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians through delivering high quality health services.
2. The Commonwealth is contributing \$75 million over two years (2010-11 and 2011-12) to build on the 2006-07 budget measure *COAG Health Services – improving care for older patients in public hospitals*, which provides funding to jurisdictions for a range of initiatives to enhance in-patient experience in rural and regional areas, improve and expedite transition to appropriate long-term care and provide hospital avoidance programs for older people. This funding is distinct from funding also announced in the 2010-11 budget measure *National Health and Hospitals Network – Aged Care – supporting long stay older patients* which allocates 2,000 time-limited flexible aged care places to states and territories to support older people in hospitals. These places will be made available to long stay older patients who are older Australians in public hospitals who have been assessed as needing aged care but who cannot be discharged because they cannot access appropriate aged care services.

TERMS OF THIS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

3. This Implementation Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Minister for Health and Ageing, and each State and Territory represented by its Minister for Health.
4. This Implementation Plan will cease on completion of the funding period specified in this Implementation Plan, including the acceptance of final performance reporting and processing of final payments against performance benchmarks specified in this Implementation Plan.
5. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Ministers.
6. Either party may terminate this Implementation Plan by providing 30 days notice in writing to the other party but may not do so once all payments available under this Plan have been made. If this Implementation Plan is terminated, the Commonwealth's obligation to make payments to the State or Territory will be limited to payments associated with performance benchmarks achieved by the State by the date of effect of termination.

7. The Parties to this Implementation Plan do not intend any of the provisions to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties' commitment to this Implementation Plan.

OBJECTIVE

8. The objective of this Implementation Plan is to:
 - (a) better assist older public patients who no longer require hospital care and are waiting for alternative care; and
 - (b) better meet the needs of long stay older public patients and improve their access to appropriate long-term care options.

Project Outcomes

9. Older Australians at risk of unnecessary and prolonged hospital stays receive appropriate and quality health care, including through:
 - (a) reduction in unnecessary admissions,
 - (b) improvement in hospital services to older people,
 - (c) improved transition to appropriate long-term care, and
 - (d) improvement in the flexibility and capacity of rural hospitals to provide more age-appropriate services.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role of the Commonwealth

10. The Commonwealth is responsible for reviewing each State and Territory performance against the performance benchmarks specified in this Implementation Plan and providing any consequential financial contribution to the States and Territories contingent on that performance

Role of the State or Territory

11. The State or Territory is responsible for all aspects of implementation, including:
 - (a) providing State or Territory Long Stay Older Patient (LSOP) Plans for Commonwealth approval, covering the two years 2010-11 and 2011-12;
 - (b) fully funding the projects and activities identified in the LSOP plan, after accounting for financial contributions from the Commonwealth and any third party;
 - (c) completing the projects and activities identified in the LSOP plan in a timely and professional manner in accordance with this Implementation Plan; and,
 - (d) meeting all conditions including providing reports in accordance with this Implementation Plan.

12. The State or Territory will also ensure that prior agreement is reached with the Commonwealth on the nature and content of any events, announcements, promotional material or publicity relating to LSOP projects and activities and that the roles of both Parties will be acknowledged and recognised appropriately.

PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

13. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the initiative is \$75 million payable in accordance with performance benchmarks set out in Table 1. GST is not payable on the funding provided in this Implementation Plan.
14. The Commonwealth will provide a funding contribution to the states and territories over the two years 2010-11 and 2011-12 for the completion of activities and projects set out in the state or territory LSOP plan that assist in achievement of the objectives and outcomes identified in this Implementation Plan. These may be new programs or may complement or extend existing state and territory programs.
15. States and Territories will provide LSOP plans outlining how the objectives of this Implementation Plan will be achieved in their State or Territory to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth. The Plans to include:
- (a) Overview of planned LSOP projects and activities and how they will be implemented;
 - (b) Metropolitan / Rural funding split;
 - (c) Location / Region of each project/activity;
 - (d) Funding splits between projects/activity; and
 - (e) Time frames and expected outcomes.

Table 1: Performance benchmarks and associated payments

Performance benchmarks	Expected Due date	Amount
(i) Provision to the Commonwealth of satisfactory detailed two year (2010-11 and 2011-12) State or Territory LSOP plans against which reports can be compiled.	30 days after the Minister's agreement to this Implementation Plan	50 per cent of 2010-11 allocation on Commonwealth acceptance of LSOP Plan
(ii) Progress on and completion of activities and projects in the LSOP plan to 30 June 2011 as demonstrated in the 2010-11 annual report.	16 May 2011	50 per cent of 2010-11 allocation on Commonwealth acceptance of 2010-11 annual report
(iii) Submission of a satisfactorily updated State or Territory LSOP plan for 2011-12, or written confirmation by the State or Territory of the unchanged continuation of the current approved State or Territory LSOP plan.	30 June 2011	50 per cent of 2011-12 allocation on Commonwealth acceptance of LSOP Plan

(iv) Progress on and completion of activities and projects in the LSOP plan to 30 June 2012 as outlined in the 2011-12 annual report.	16 May 2012	50 per cent of 2011-12 allocation on Commonwealth acceptance of 2011-12 annual report
(v) Submission of a satisfactorily detailed final report.	29 August 2012	Nil

16. Any Commonwealth financial contribution payable will be processed by the Commonwealth Treasury and paid to the State or Territory Treasury in accordance with the payment arrangements set out in Schedule D of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations.
17. Payments will be made on receipt and acceptance of reports and data in respect of the deliverables identified for this project, as outlined in this Implementation Plan.

BUDGET

18. The overall budget for the continuation of the initiative is set out in Table 2.

Table 2: Overall budget

(\$ million)	2010-11	2011-12	Total
(i) Total Payments to States and Territories to undertake projects to continue the Long Stay Older Patients Initiative	37.5	37.5	75.0
(ii) Breakdown of payments to States and Territories			
NSW	12.99	12.99	25.98
Victoria	9.52	9.52	19.04
Queensland	6.75	6.75	13.5
South Australia	3.33	3.33	6.66
Western Australia	3.32	3.32	6.64
Tasmania	0.99	0.99	1.98
Northern Territory	0.3	0.3	0.6
Australian Capital Territory	0.3	0.3	0.6

19. Having regard to the estimated costs of projects specified in the overall project budget, the State will not be required to pay a refund to the Commonwealth if the actual cost of the project is less than the agreed estimated cost of the project. Similarly, the State bears all risk should the costs of a project exceed the estimated costs. The Parties acknowledge that this arrangement provides the maximum incentive for the State to deliver projects cost-effectively and efficiently.

REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

20. The States and Territories will provide annual reports for each financial year to the Commonwealth to demonstrate their achievement of the objective, outcomes and performance benchmarks as set out in this implementation plan, including progress in and completion of projects and activities identified in their LSOP Plans.

21. The annual reports will contain the following information:
 - (a) a description of actual performance of the State or Territory from 1 July to 31 March each year with respect to projects and activities identified in the approved State or Territory LSOP plan. This shall include as applicable:
 - any state evaluation of the programs and/or projects that have been wholly or partially funded through the LSOP initiative;
 - counts of services provided by programs wholly or partly funded by the Commonwealth's financial contribution under this Implementation Plan; and
 - progress reports on the implementation of one-off projects including construction works.
 - (b) a description of projected performance of the State or Territory between 1 April and 30 June each year with respect to projects and activities identified in the approved State or Territory LSOP plan, as outlined in clause 21(a).
 - The State or Territory will include details of actual performance in this period in the subsequent annual or final report.
 - (c) promotional activities undertaken in relation to, and media coverage of, the initiative during the reporting period; and
 - (d) a description of the work that will be undertaken to complete the remaining projects and any expected promotional opportunities during the next reporting period.
22. The final report is due within 60 Business Days of the completion or termination of this Implementation Plan. The final report will be a stand-alone document that can be used for public information purposes regarding the project and must:
 - (a) describe the conduct, benefits and outcomes of the project as a whole over the life of this Implementation Plan;
 - (b) assess the extent to which the objective in this Implementation Plan has been achieved and explain why any aspects of the State or Territory LSOP Plan were not achieved;
 - (c) include, as applicable:
 - any state evaluation of the programs and/or projects that have been wholly or partially funded through the LSOP initiative;
 - counts of services provided by programs wholly or partly funded by the Commonwealth's financial contribution under this Implementation Plan; and
 - details of the completion/implementation of one-off projects including construction work;
 - description of actual performance of the State or Territory since the 2011-12 annual report in accordance with clause 21; and
 - (d) include a discussion of any other matters relating to the initiative, which the Commonwealth notifies the State or Territory should be included in the final project report at least 30 days before it is due.