

HEALTH PROGRAMME GRANTS – CESSATION

Current Issue:

- The Government is considering ceasing the payment of Health Programme Grants (HPGs) to the remaining three organisations in the HPG programme.

Key Facts & Figures:

[REDACTED]

Minister's Response Lines:

- Health Programme Grants have been useful in the past in providing access to a range of services for which fee-for-service funding was not appropriate.
- However, with the advent of other funding sources and the mainstreaming of many services, many of the original functions for which Health Programme Grants were approved have declined.
- The continued provision of Commonwealth Health Programme Grant funding to these three organisations alone is anomalous, given the large number of other organisations providing similar types of services, and the other funding sources available to them.
- In order to provide the affected organisations with sufficient time to adjust to changes in their circumstances, they will be advised as soon as possible of any Government decision in this area.

Background:

The HPG programme was introduced in 1975 to provide alternative funding for a range of services where fee-for-service arrangements were inappropriate. HPGs are governed by Part IV of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*.

HPGs were originally made across three broad categories: radiation oncology, pathology, and 'other health services'. This latter category provided a range of medical, pharmaceutical and rehabilitation services to specific client groups such as people in rural and remote areas; socioeconomically disadvantaged people; indigenous Australians; and people with severe brain injury.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

These recipients of HPG funding provide scientific aids, assistive technology and adaptive living aids, and ophthalmological and optometrical consultations to people with serious visual problems.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Contact Officer: Megan Keaney Phone: (02) 6289 6945	Clearance Officer: Kirsty Faichney Phone: (02) 6289 1016	Date Created: 15 December 2014 Updated on: Last Reviewed:
---	--	---