

Private Health CEO Forum – 21 September 2026

Meeting summary – 21 September 2026

The Private Health CEO Forum (the Forum) met on 21 September 2026. Members discussed the Forum's priorities for 2026-27, progress on specialist affordability and private health reforms, the 2027 private health insurance premium round, and artificial intelligence and cyber security across the private health sector.

Terms of Reference, Membership and Year Ahead

Members noted the Government's agreement to continue the Forum until June 2027 and proposed changes to broaden its focus and membership. The 2026-27 program will include private health reform, mental health, workforce, digital health, artificial intelligence, productivity and sector sustainability. Members discussed minor updates to the Terms of Reference including the addition of a representative from the Medical Technology industry and upcoming meeting schedule.

Members noted the department's update on the passage of the [Health Legislation Amendment \(Improving Choice and Transparency for Private Health Consumers\) Bill 2026](#) (the Bill). The Bill was introduced in the House of Representatives on 12 February 2026 and first debated on 25 March 2026. The Bill passed both houses of Parliament on 16 September 2026 and received Royal Assent on 18 September 2026.

Members also noted the department's update on the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs' inquiry into [Private Health Insurance Amendment \(Modernising the Private Health Insurance Rebate\) Bill 2026](#). The Committee is due to report on 7 October 2026.

Specialist Affordability Reforms

The department provided an update on the three Specialist Affordability Reform priority areas: Informed Financial Consent and Split Billing Practices, Modernising Referral Pathways and Options to Address Excessive Fees. Members noted progress on consultations since the previous Forum and the establishment of a Specialist Affordability Working Group. The department noted that [consultation on Options to Address Excessive Fees](#) closes on 19 October 2026. The department also noted submissions to the The House of Representatives [Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Disability](#) inquiry into access to and affordability of medical specialists in Australia close on 16 October 2026 ([Lodge my submission – Parliament of Australia](#)).

Private Health Sector Reforms

The department provided an update on the first tranche of [private health reform consultation](#), which received 100 [submissions](#). Members discussed reforms to contemporary models of care, including Hospital in the Home, maternity, mental health and Type C certification, as well as private health insurance product simplification and risk equalisation.

The department outlined the next stage of consultation, focusing on transparency of private hospital costs and financial performance, and potential industry codes of conduct. Further work on product simplification and risk equalisation will be informed by technical analysis and stakeholder consultation as part of Tranche 3 of consultations.

2027 Private Health Insurance Premium Round

The department provided an update on the [2027 private health insurance Premium Round](#), which commenced on 18 September 2026. Members were advised of recent legislative changes affecting premium approval arrangements for new products and the publication of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations for the 2027 Premium Round.

Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security across the Private Health Sector

The National Office of Cyber Security and the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority presented on artificial intelligence and cyber security across the private health sector. Discussion recognised the opportunities presented by increasing use of digital technologies to support more efficient, innovative and personalised healthcare, alongside the need for strong cyber security and protection of patient and provider information.

Members discussed the importance of sector wide collaboration, sharing good practice and strengthening the resilience of digital systems and services. The cost and complexity associated with investment in digital and cyber capabilities were also noted. Relevant webpages on this topic are below:

- [Annual Cyber Threat Report 2024-2025 | Cyber.gov.au](#)
- [Health Cyber Sharing Network - CI-ISAC Australia](#)
- [Not-for-Profit Cyber Uplift Community of Practice](#)
- [Horizon 2: Expanding our reach \(2026–2028\)](#)
- [New AI frontier cyber threat guidance for boards of directors | Cyber.gov.au](#)
- [APRA Letter to Industry on Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) | APRA](#)
- [Insights from the APRA-ASIC Industry Roundtables | APRA](#)