

# **A response to the Australian Health Care Agreements series**

In his letter Wright argues that those with private health insurance “do not deprive others of their right to access”. (Public Hospitals) “To the contrary, because they reduce the costs to Governments (and taxpayers) of the system they enhance the prospects of access of others”. Demonstrably neither statement is correct. Those with private health insurance do not reduce the cost of providing Public Hospital services as they do not reduce demand on those services. Most private insurance is used for elective surgery that had no chance of being performed in the public system in any reasonable time.

Public Hospital services are RATIONED (look at those waiting lists) because the system is inadequately funded. Imagine how much additional service could be provided with \$2.1 billion! By diverting money to the private system and not relieving any pressure on the public system the rebate is denying access to those who MUST use our Public Hospitals. Particularly unfair, under these circumstances, is the fact that the insurance rebate is contributed to by taxpayers who have no chance of ever being able to afford private insurance and gain no benefit from there mandated generosity to wealthier Australians!

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