



Media Release

8 October 2007

National Confidence in Medicare at an all Time High

Confidence in the current Medicare national health system has reached a record high amongst Australians according to the Ipsos Health Care & Insurance - Australia 2007 Report, a survey of over 5,300 people conducted every two years.

Ipsos project director, Erik Okerstrom, said; despite current reports about problems with health care, particularly the hospital system, Australians value Medicare more than ever.

“It seems that consumers value Medicare as a national health system, but don’t have as much confidence in the delivery of public hospital services,” Mr Okerstrom said.

Those surveyed in July/August 2007 were asked how they would rate the Medicare national health system on a scale of *very low* to *very high*; sixty percent gave a high rating, which is the most positive result since the study began in 1987.

Public rating of Medicare reached a low in 2003 through problems related to bulk billing (only 41% rating it highly), recovering in 2005 with the Strengthening Medicare Campaign (50%), surging to its present level in 2007.

Four out of five young Australians (80%, aged 15-29) rated the Medicare system as *fairly* or *very high* while the highest ratings were also evident among those aged over 65 (70%).

Victorians top the national average by seven percentage points at 67%, compared to the Northern Territory which is at 47%.

Both Labour and Liberal/National Coalition voters rate Medicare favourably (61% and 59% saying *fairly* and *very high* respectively).

In contrast, the study also shows that only around half (48%) are satisfied with their state/territory government’s commitment to public health, including hospitals.

“Overall, these are encouraging results for federally run Medicare, with Australians perceiving the ‘health’ of the public system quite positively,” said Mr Okerstrom.

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Media release (continued) – Medicare

Ipsos Health Care & Insurance Report Background:

The Ipsos Health Care & Insurance Australia Report is a biennial syndicated publication based on a phone survey of over 5,300 Australians, geographically representative of the population. It focuses on consumer attitudes and trends towards the public and private health sectors- what Australians really think. It is a well respected report supported by government health departments (Federal and state/territory), major private health insurance organisations and health related industry associations. The report has been measuring consumer attitudes in healthcare since 1987.

More information:

Trend Analysis								
Rating of Medicare – Overall System*								
YEAR	Very High	Fairly High	Neither High Nor Low	Fairly Low	Very Low	Net High	Net Low	Ratio High/Low
1987	16%	31%	18%	12%	13%	46%	25%	1.8
1989	13%	36%	25%	11%	10%	49%	21%	2.3
1991	12%	38%	27%	12%	8%	50%	21%	2.4
1993	17%	37%	28%	10%	8%	54%	18%	3.0
1995	13%	43%	24%	11%	5%	56%	16%	3.5
1997	14%	41%	25%	12%	5%	56%	17%	3.3
1999	13%	38%	29%	11%	7%	51%	18%	2.8
2001	14%	45%	25%	9%	4%	59%	13%	4.5
2003	8%	33%	32%	16%	9%	41%	25%	1.6
2005	11%	39%	31%	12%	5%	50%	17%	2.9
2007	15%	45%	26%	8%	4%	60%	13%	4.6

Shading denotes significant change in latest survey

NOTE: Excludes 'Don't know' responses. May not add to 100%.

