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Department of Health and Ageing

CEDA National Conference

Demographic Destiny

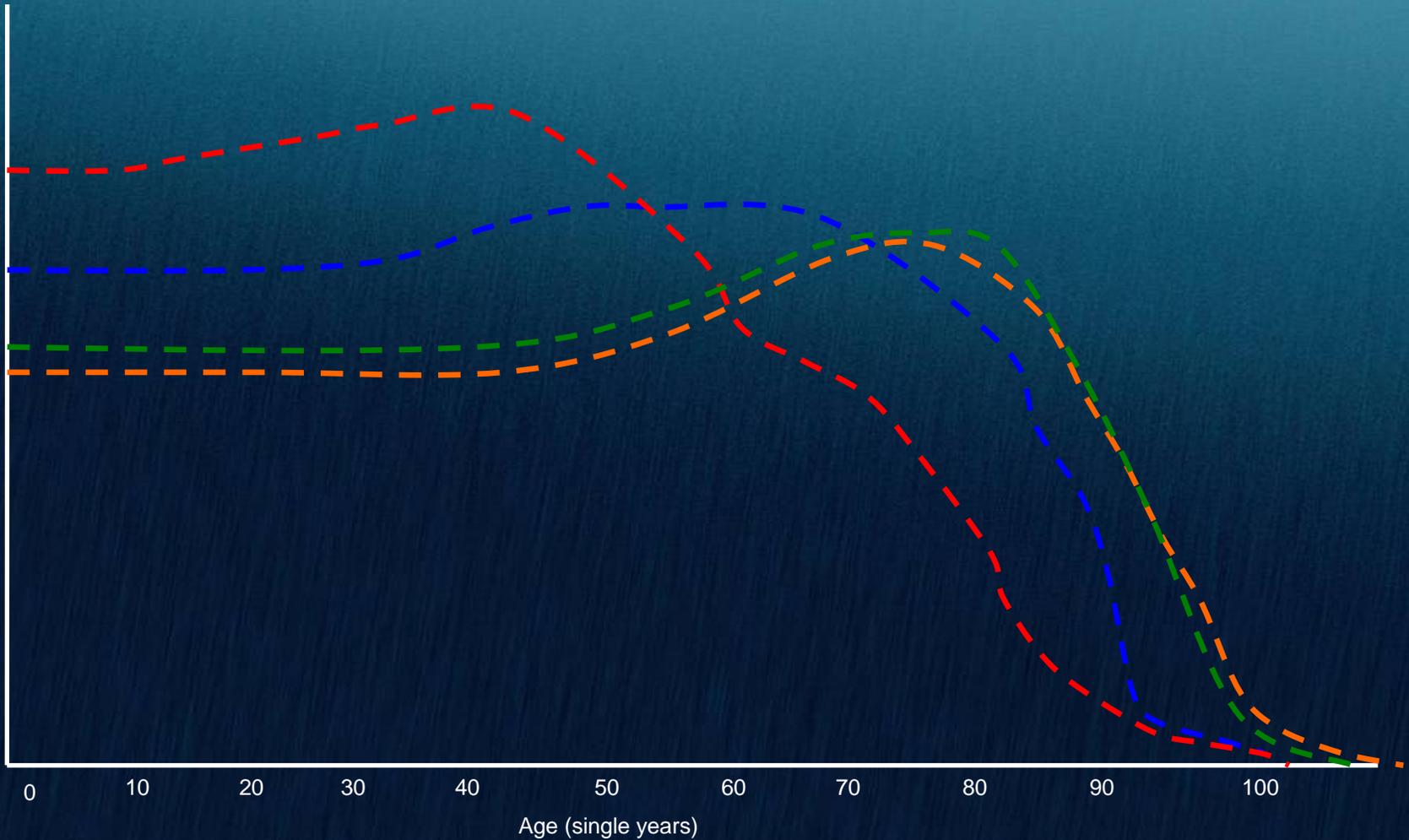
24 October 2006

**Panel Discussion:
Healthcare for an ageing population
Too little, too late?**

Jane Halton, Secretary, Department of Health and Ageing

The Population Wave, 1989-90 to 2069-70

% of population



- - - = 1989 - 90

- - - = 2019-20

- - - = 2049-50

- - - = 2069-70



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Future Trends in Health and Health Expenditure

Health expenditure is rising and is an investment in people. International comparisons show Australia is already well placed to deal with ageing.



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Why are health costs rising?

- Population ageing is not the sole driver of health costs. Advances in medical technology and consumer demand also contribute to increases in health expenditure
- Actions to curb PBS growth are working



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Reducing the health bill

- Encouraging a good balance between public and private funding sources
- *The best and most effective way to reduce the need for services is to ensure that older people are healthy!*



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Chronic Disease – a focus on prevention

- Chronic diseases estimated to be responsible for more than two thirds of all health expenditure
- Diabetes, mental health, digestive disorders and the ‘obesity epidemic’



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What the Australian Government is doing

Promoting healthier lifestyles





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What the Australian Government is doing

Working together – COAG



- Healthy lifestyles
- Early detection
- Lifestyle modification
- Self-management
- Integrated care



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Adjusting the health system

- Community based care
- Team-based primary care for chronic disease management
- Practice nurses, mental health nurses and allied health professionals
- Private health insurance reforms





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The Health Workforce

We need

- More doctors
- More nurses
- More allied health workers
- More pharmacists

Australian Government response

- Increased GP training places
- Increased medical school places
- Incentives to practice in rural areas
- Overseas trained doctors



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Public Hospital Reforms

The Australian Government is working with state and territory governments to improve health system efficiency and work towards better outcomes

- Pathways Home
- Transition Care Program



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Planning for the future

This is not too little, too late. It is prudent planning.

