



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

# Key Health Challenges in a Climate of Reform

Presentation to CEDA Health Forum  
29 October 2008

David Kalisch  
Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Ageing



Australian Government

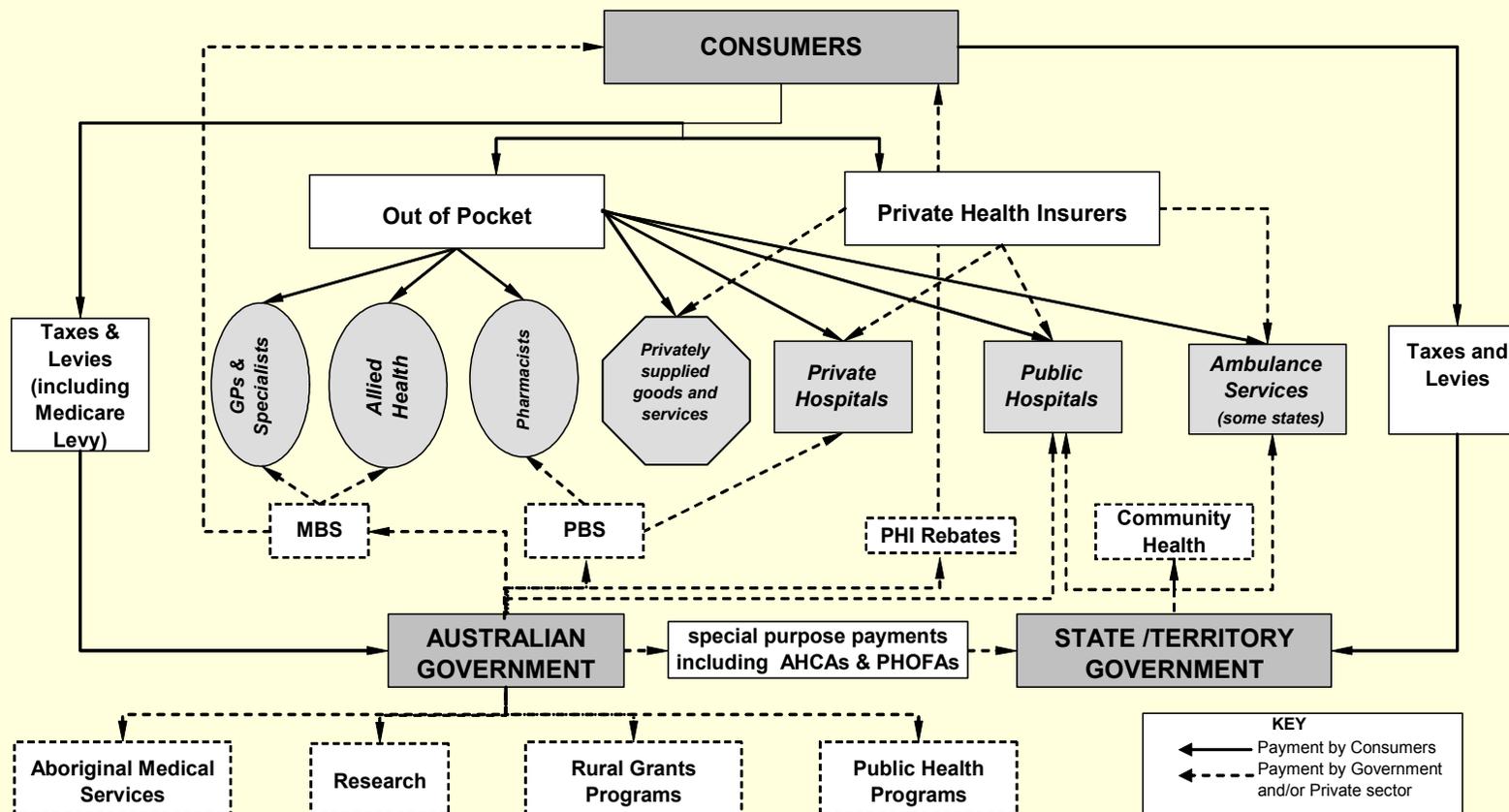
Department of Health and Ageing

## Why interest in Health?

- Health status matters for individuals and families
- Health outcomes have major impact on the productive capacity of the economy
- Health system consumes significant resources and is a big part of the economy – 9 per cent of GDP

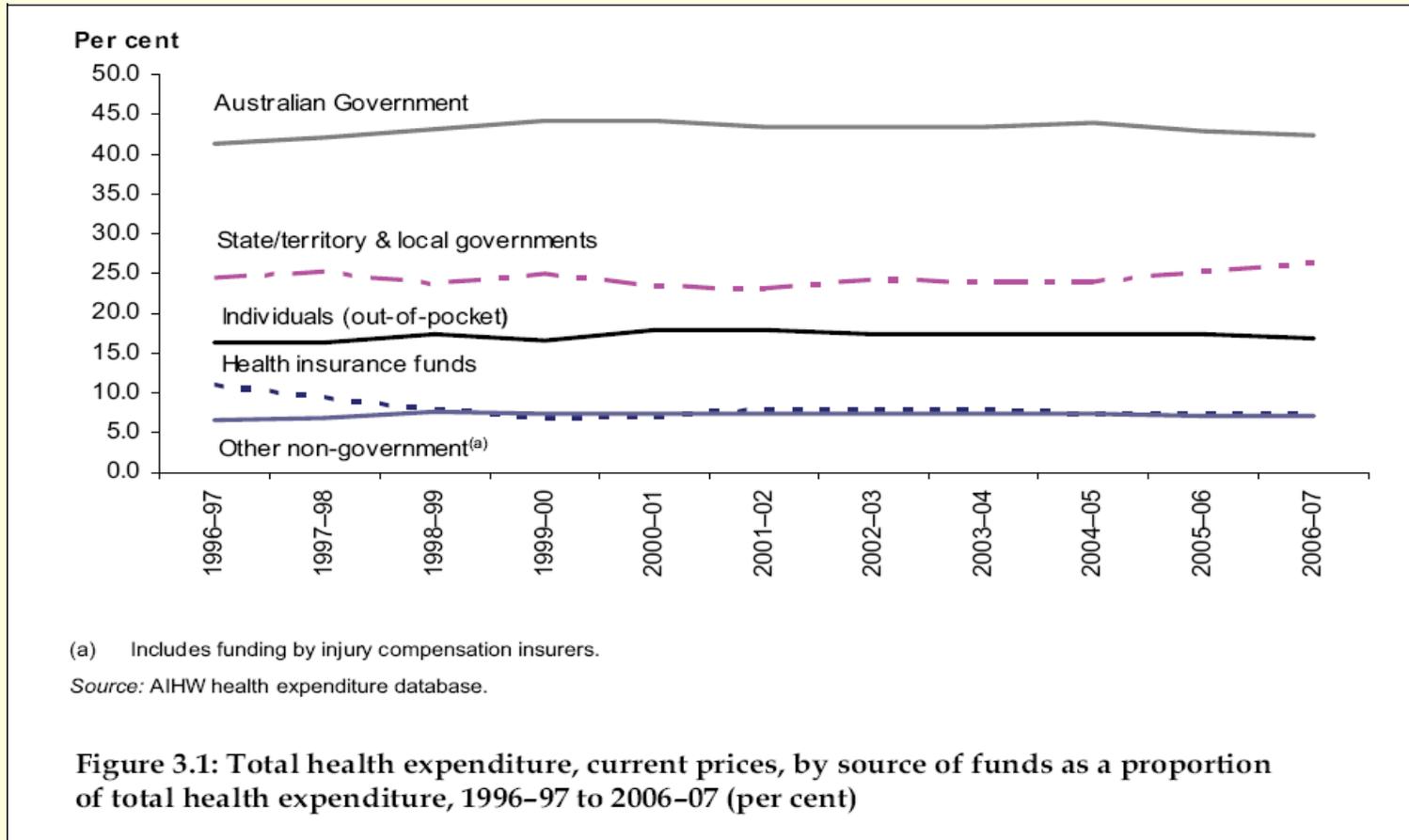


# Australia's complex health system





# Responsibility for Australian health system (share of costs)



Source: AIHW, *Health Expenditure Australia 2006-07*



## Some basic questions for health reform

1. Should we achieve better health outcomes from current resources, do we need to spend more on health, or both?
2. How can health reform improve access, quality and affordability of health services?
3. How can health reform be directed to redress poorer outcomes for sub-populations?
4. Is our current health system sustainable, given the ageing population and anticipated technology costs?



# National Health Performance Framework – A Systems Approach

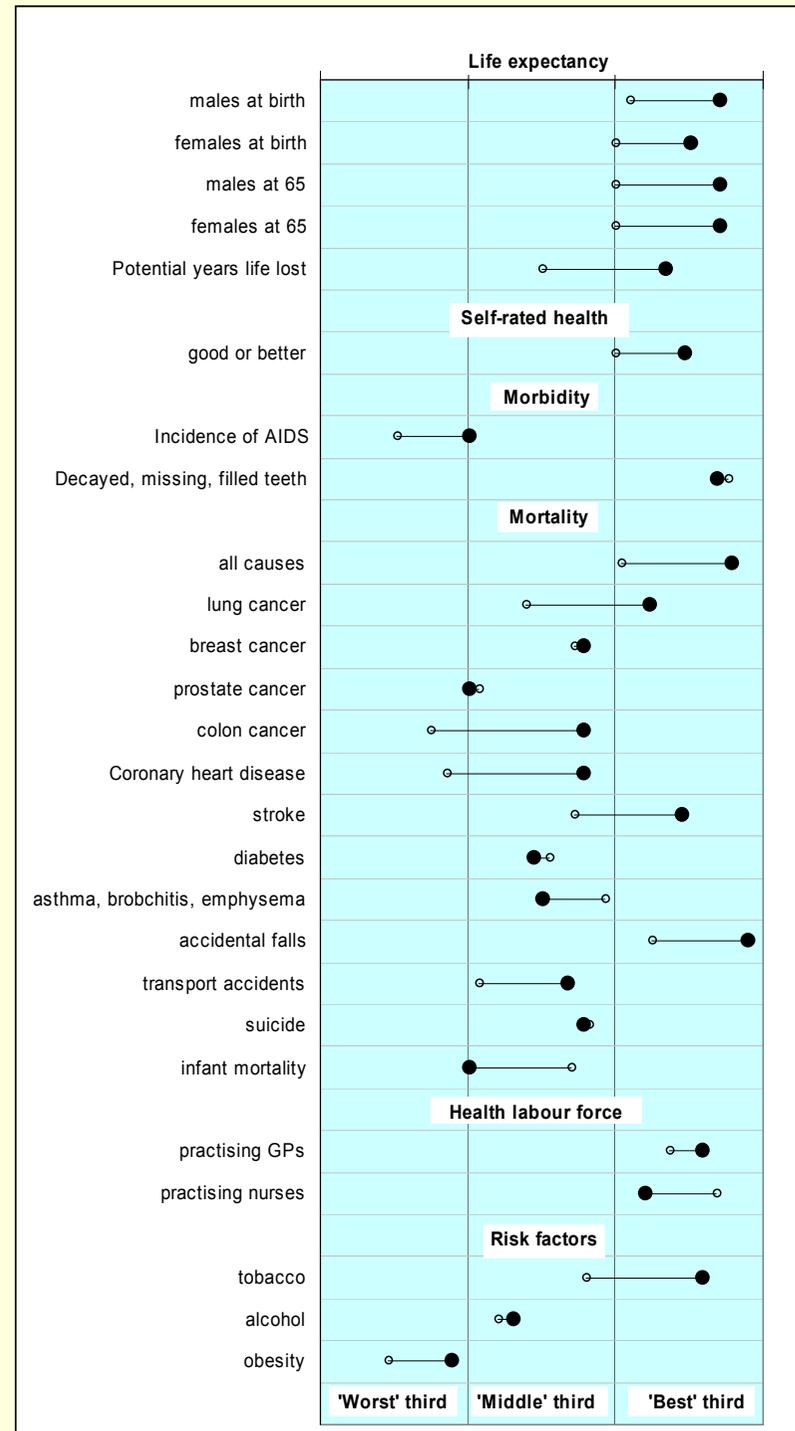
<b>Health status and outcomes</b>		
Health conditions		Life expectancy and wellbeing
Human function		Deaths
<b>Determinants of health</b>		
Environmental		Health behaviours
Socioeconomic		Person-related
Community capacity		
<b>Health system performance</b>		
Effective	Appropriate	Efficient
Responsive	Accessible	Safe
Continuous	Capable	Sustainable



# Australia's health: ranking among OECD countries

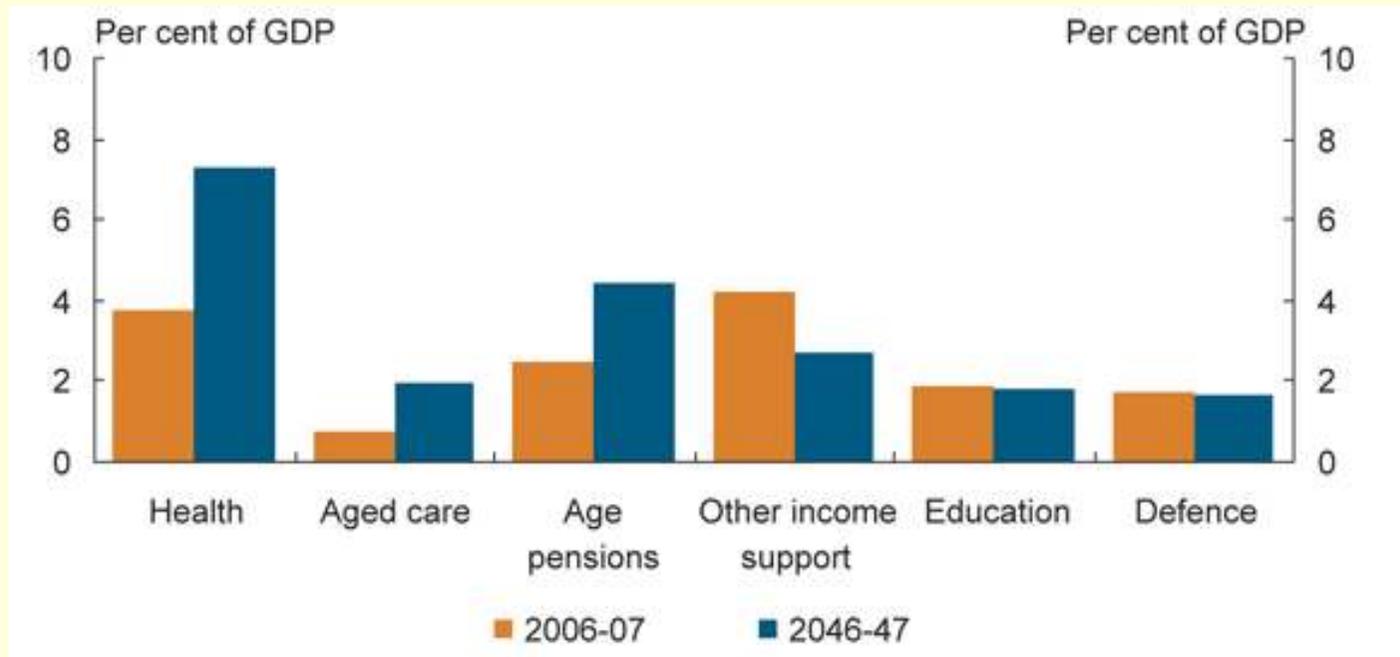
Source: OECD, *OECD Health Data 2007*

1987 ○ ● 2004





# Anticipated increase in spending, 2006-07 to 2046-47



Source: Treasury, *Intergenerational Report Overview 2007*



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

## What are some of the particular challenges for health reform?

- Evidence-based policy reform, and generation of the evidence base
- Health workforce availability, use and distribution
- Implementing reform, contrasted with increasing resources, to achieve better health outcomes
- Greater accountability and responsibility within our complex health system
- Responding to community expectations