
Office of the Administrator National Health Funding Pool

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Media Release from the Acting Administrator of the National Health Funding Pool

Release of the National Health Reform Public Hospital Funding monthly report for July 2012

Acting Administrator of the National Health Funding Pool, Bob Sendt, today released the first monthly report on National Health Reform (NHR) funding to local hospital networks throughout Australia. This report shows funding provided by state, territory and Commonwealth governments in July 2012.

The Administrator's monthly report is a key feature of the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA), signed by the Prime Minister and Premiers in August 2011. Under the NHRA, states, territories and the Commonwealth are jointly responsible for funding public hospital services. The Administrator is responsible for ensuring transparency and reporting publicly on the funding and payments under the NHRA, with particular detail to payments made to local hospital networks, the source of funding, and the basis of payments.

The monthly report details NHR funding and payments at a national level, state or territory level, and local hospital network level within each state and territory. It discloses how NHR funding relates to the numbers and types of services local hospital networks have agreed to provide, and subsequently the numbers and types of services they actually provided.

In releasing the July 2012 report, Mr Sendt said, 'I am very pleased to release the inaugural Administrator's monthly report, delivering on the requirements of the National Health Reform Agreement, and providing greater transparency on funding flows to hospitals and the services they deliver'.

States and territories are at various stages of implementing health reforms due to the preparation and completion of supporting legislative arrangements. This has been noted in the July 2012 report, which clearly outlines those states and territories that were operating under the financial arrangements of the NHRA in July 2012, and those that agreed to provide data for the July 2012 report, to enable monthly reporting on NHR funding, payments and services.

The monthly report is available from the www.publichospitalfunding.gov.au website which will go live at 12.00pm, Wednesday 7 November 2012. The website also provides general information on national health reform arrangements, funding and payment flows, and the role and responsibilities of the Administrator under the NHRA and associated legislation.

The information contained in the monthly report has been provided by states and territories and reconciled with information held by the National Health Funding Body (NHFB). The National Health Funding Body assists the Administrator to perform his functions under Commonwealth and state and territory legislation.

Now that the reporting processes are established, future monthly reports will be issued much closer to the end of the month.

Background on Mr Bob Sendt

Bob Sendt was appointed as Acting Administrator of the National Health Funding Pool on 27 June 2012. Mr Sendt was New South Wales Auditor-General from 1999 to 2006.

He is a Fellow of CPA Australia, a Fellow of the Institute of Public Accountants, and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He serves on a number of boards including Job Futures Ltd (Chair), Cancer Council NSW (Director), National Health Call Centre Network Ltd (Chair), and the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board (Director).

Background to the Position of Administrator of the National Health Funding Pool

The Administrator of the National Health Funding Pool (the Administrator) is an independent statutory office holder, distinct from Commonwealth and state and territory government departments, established under legislation of the Commonwealth and state and territory governments.

The role of the Administrator, with support from the National Health Funding Body, is to administer the National Health funding Pool according to the National Health Reform Agreement, to oversee payments into and out of the state pool account for each state and territory, and to report on various funding and service delivery matters.

The Administrator is responsible for ensuring that state and territory deposits into the state pool accounts, and payments from the state pool accounts to local hospital networks are made in accordance with directions from the responsible State or Territory Minister, and in line with the Agreement.

The Administrator is also responsible for calculating the Commonwealth public health funding contribution to states and territories, and ensuring funds are deposited into pool accounts accordingly and in line with the Agreement. In addition, the Administrator is responsible for reconciling estimated and actual service volumes, authorising payment instructions, and reporting on all activities for the National Health Funding Pool.

The National Health Funding Pool is the collective term for the state pool accounts of all states and territories. A state pool account is a Reserve Bank account established by a state or territory for the purpose of receiving all Commonwealth and activity based state and territory National Health Reform funding, and for making payments under the Agreement.

The Administrator is not subject to the control or direction of any Commonwealth Minister.