

**National public health
expenditure report
2000–01**

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Preface

The funding of public health activities by governments is an important aspect of the Australian health care system. Most public health activities are aimed at preventing illness and enhancing the wellbeing and quality of life of a nation's population. That is, what is spent now on public health services is an investment that should result in fewer demands on health services, and better health for the population as a whole, over time.

This report is the third report on public health expenditure by the Australian Government, state and territory health departments.

The first report, *National Public Health Expenditure Report 1998–99*, estimated public health expenditure based on eight core public health expenditure activities.

In the second report, *National Public Health Expenditure Report 1999–00*, the number of core public health activities was expanded to nine by the inclusion of two new categories – *Prevention of hazardous and harmful drug use* and *Public health research* – and the removal of the *All other core public health* category. That report also included estimates of expenditure on public health-related activities by local governments and non-government organisations.

In this 2000–01 report, public health expenditure data have been collected for the same public health activities as in the 1999–00 data collection. Therefore, it is possible to make direct comparisons between expenditures in 1999–00 and 2000–01. However, there have been some revisions to the 1999–00 public health expenditure estimates published in *National Public Health Expenditure Report 1999–00*. Comparisons with 1999–00 data should, therefore, be based on the 1999–00 expenditure information provided in this publication.

An enhancement to this report is the inclusion of constant price estimates at the national, state and territory levels. The inclusion of these data enables users to make comparisons, in real terms, between reported health activity expenditures for 1999–00 and 2000–01 within each jurisdiction.

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Notes and symbols

(a) Figures in tables and the text have sometimes been rounded. Discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

(b) The following symbols are used in tables:

Not available	n.a.
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Nil or rounded down to zero	—
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Not applicable	..
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